



# Beth Am Commentator

June 25, 1976

Miami, Florida

## RELIGIOUS SERVICE

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 8:30 p.m.

"The Future of America" Two Views

Youth: Matthew Fishman, Silver Knight Winner

Adult: Barton Udell, Attorney, Past President of Beth Am

NO SATURDAY SERVICE ON JUNE 26

### Something New!

## The B'nai Mitzvah Club Aleph

This club will begin in the next school term (Fall, 1976) and will prepare a maximum of ten boys and ten girls (or 20 children) for a special joint B'nai Mitzvah ceremony, to be held on Friday evening, March 31, 1978.

The requirements will be the same as for Bar Mitzvah--three years minimum in the Hebrew and Religious Schools. The club will meet as a unit beginning this fall and will have social as well as religious activities.

The young people will be asked to pledge that they will continue after Bar Mitzvah to Confirmation, and fulfill all necessary requirements through the tenth grade. They do not have to continue in the club. Their ceremony will be different from the regular Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony in that the young people will conduct the entire service, in English, Hebrew, sermon, and program.

Registration for Aleph (Hebrew for No. 1) is currently open. Students will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. Any young person who otherwise fulfills the requirements, and who will be 13 any time before March 31, 1978, or within six weeks thereafter, is eligible for this club. Students already registered for a prior Bar Mitzvah date and service must officially release that date. This club is being organized for students of average ability or better. Students requiring special attention or private tutoring cannot be admitted. Contact Joan Schwartzman at the Temple office, 667-5587, to register.

## Join The Committee Of Your Choice

President Goodman is happy to invite all congregants to get involved in Temple activities by joining the committee of their choice. Most work at the Temple is performed by the committees and if you want to learn and help in the inner workings of Temple operation, indicate the committee you want to join. Return the coupon below to the Temple office.

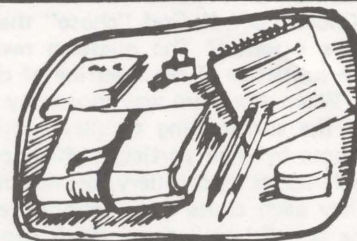
### COMMITTEES

Adult Education \_\_\_ Friends Unlimited \_\_\_ Minyan \_\_\_  
 Beth Am Singles \_\_\_ High Holidays \_\_\_ Religious \_\_\_  
 Chavurah \_\_\_ House \_\_\_ School Board \_\_\_  
 CJA \_\_\_ Israel Bonds \_\_\_ Singles Limited \_\_\_  
 Contemporaries \_\_\_ Library \_\_\_ Social Action \_\_\_  
 Fair Share \_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_

Name.....

Address.....Phone.....

## Now Is The Time To Register



Members are sending in registrations for schools and Temple membership at this time. All Temple members who are current with their dues and fees should have received membership applications for the coming year.

### BUDGET INCREASE PEGGED AT 10%

Our budget forecasts a ten percent increase in costs for the coming year. Members are urged to increase their Fair Share dues contribution by at least ten percent to help defray our increased costs.

We have many new and exciting programs scheduled for next year. It would be counterproductive to curtail our program at a time when so many in our community have so many spiritual needs. We need your support to provide the many innovative and meaningful activities that you and your family are entitled to.

### REGISTER EARLY FOR SCHOOLS

Parents are reminded that space is reserved in Religious School on a FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS. If you want to send your child on any specific day, it is imperative that you send in your registration forms now.

The fiscal season at Beth Am is July 1 to June 30. Registration for the 1976-77 year is being accepted now. If you want your children to be placed on Saturday or Sunday morning, you must register before these classes are filled. Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. In order to register, each family must:

1. Pay all back dues and capital fund pledges.
2. Pay one-half of its Fair Share dues for 1976-77 plus its current capital fund pledge installment.
3. Registration fees for Religious and Hebrew school, which includes all books and supplies.

Members are reminded that they do not officially register their children just by filling out the forms received in the mail. Registration forms must be accompanied with the payment of one-half dues, registration fees, and capital pledges.

### HEBREW SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please note that the Hebrew School schedule for the 1976-77 year will be much different from the preceding year.

Because of changes in junior high school scheduling, we will have two different class arrangements. Schedule I will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Schedule II will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Schedules I and II will cover the same curriculum.

All classes will meet in the afternoon. Class times are 3:45 p.m. for the early session and 4:45 p.m. for the later session.

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE COMMENTATOR WILL ENCOMPASS THE TWO ISSUES DATED JULY 2 AND JULY 9.**

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY  
**Are We 'The Chosen People?'**

Our Bible makes it clear that our fathers considered themselves to have been chosen by God as His special people (Ahm S'gulah). For hundreds of years, Jews who inherited the tradition of Abraham have been puzzled by the concept of "Choseness." If God "chose" the Jews, why, then, have the Jews suffered? The question reveals a misunderstanding of the subtleties of the doctrine of choseness.

When Abraham was chosen by his God, it was an era when all the surrounding peoples considered that they, too, were chosen by their particular chief god. The concept of choseness includes, as its corollary, the notion that the people also chose. They each chose a god whom they wished to follow, even as the god "chose" them. Each people entered into a covenant or contract with a particular god. The difference between the Hebrews and their contemporaries was not that the Jews were chosen and the other peoples were not. The difference was in the god with which each people chose to ally itself in contract.

To covenant with a god meant to follow his laws. The significance of the Hebraic covenant with their God was the unmatched excellence of the laws associated with Him. Since these laws were on a much higher ethical level than the laws associated with Baal or Moloch or the other "gods." The particular choice that the Hebrews made resulted in an extra burden for them. The other side of "Choseness" was commitment, partnership.

Only the unlearned Jew has interpreted "Choseness" to mean that the Jew would get special rewards. The prophet Amos dramatically pointed out (8th century B.C.E.) that since God was the Father of all peoples, "Choseness" for the Jew meant only that as His first child, the Jew would be required to perform in more exemplary fashion.

In the end, then, the question, "Are the Jews the chosen people?" can only be answered by the Jews of each generation--for themselves. We are chosen if we assumed the covenant of following the laws associated with our God. We demonstrate our choseness by our actions. We are chosen to be the special representative of God, if we are in the vanguard of those who mediate His qualities to the world about us.

There is a special obligation involved in this inherited doctrine of choseness. If we do not admit to its validity in the present, then we are betraying generations of Jews who lived and died to make it true. Can it have been true for our fathers, but not for us? Alas, if it is not true for us, also, then, it was not true for them, either. Can we make a lie of four thousand years of noble history? I trust not.



## The Committee Of 100

The Committee of 100, which is made up of those families who voluntarily contribute \$1,000 or more to Fair Share each year are happy to welcome to their ranks two new member families. These are new members who have joined the group for the year 1976-77. This brings our total of new members to 11. Can you help Temple Beth Am by adding your name to this list?

Dr. Morton and Virginia Corin

Richard and Nancy Granat

Most of the former members of the committee have indicated that they will rejoin for the 1976-77 year. Their names will be printed in the COMMENTATOR soon.

## NEWLYWEDS OFFERED SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP

All newlyweds are reminded that the first year of membership at Beth Am is free. If you were married at the Temple during the year 1975-76 and would like to retain your membership, contact David Stuart, our executive director, for special details. We know that newlyweds are in need of special treatment and we are prepared to extend our heartfelt wishes that you remain as full members of the Congregation.

## Steamboat Was Super

The Beth Am skiers returned from the first annual snow festival, sponsored by our Sisterhood and Brotherhood, happy, tired, and well tanned. Everyone agreed that skiing in Colorado is one of the world's great thrills. Steamboat Springs put on its spring show for us, showering us with thick new snow the first couple of days, then turning on the sunshine for several days. Every day had a special event, varying from a wine and cheese party to a windy pro-am race. Even the brand new skiers entered our special races and found themselves in places they never thought they'd be.

NAN FRIEDLAND and PAT LIEBERMAN, two first-timers, won the prizes as our "ace" beginners, skiing down from the top like they had been doing this sort of thing for years. ELLIOTT and JEANNE DINNERSTEIN both turned on the speed and came away with awards in their respective races. SUSAN WEINSOFF won first place in the women's division of our group race, and JOAN BLOOM, wearing a tiger suit, but acting very tame, was our official "ski bunny"! BUCKY BLOOM, on the other hand, went all out to win a medal, even stayed an extra couple of days to get in some more races, and sure enough, he came home with a silver pin in NASTAR (a race against the clock compared with the time set by the resort's pro). ANN and MIKE BLOCK were not completely new to skiing, but this big mountain and this western snow were new to them, and both looked fantastic! WARREN LIEBERMAN tried skiing for the first time and is ready to take on some of the expert runs. ED FRIEDLAND, SANDRA ROTH, and NORTON and TEDDI SEGAL and all their kids were enchanted with this fluffy white stuff and look forward to more skiing next year. SHARON and JAY WASSERMAN and their three kids did great, Jay hitting the slopes for the first time and the others renewing the sport after a long absence. ARLINE FINKEL, yelling "help" all the way down an advanced run the very first day, jumped right from beginner to intermediate without delay. HERB WEINSOFF, along with Susan and little Amy, experienced eastern skiers, enjoyed discovering the western hospitality and wide open spaces. And BOB and JOAN LOEWENTHAL agreed this had to be one of the friendliest, most fun-loving groups ever to join them on a ski trip.

## PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Even as summer approaches here in Miami, we're eagerly anticipating the second annual Beth Am snow festival, and tentative plans are to go to Snowmass the first week in March. Watch for announcements here in the COMMENTATOR in the late summer or early fall for details, and if you think you'll want to go next winter, it would be a good idea to call Bob or Joan (271-1233) and leave your name for the mailing list so you'll get all the information as soon as it's ready.

Thanks from all of us, both Temple members and all their friends (45 people in all went to Steamboat), to the Sisterhood and Brotherhood for sponsoring a super successful event! It was a wonderful experience for us and an opportunity to make a worthy contribution to the Temple Sisterhood and Brotherhood.