

Beth Am Commentator

December 23, 1977

Miami, Florida

Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard

"THE BIRTH OF A JEWISH CHILD"

A discussion of Christmas and the declining Jewish birth rate

Friday, December 23, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Saturday, December 24, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

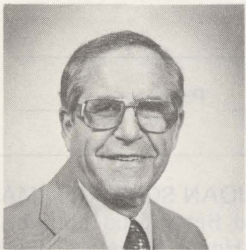
Israel Bond Cabinet Meeting To Obtain Buyers For Bonds



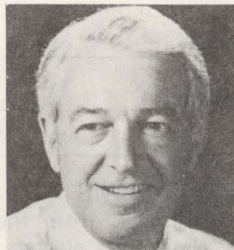
Baros



Luria



Liebert



Zipp

Pictured above are members of the Beth Am Israel Bond Cabinet. Leonard Luria and William Baros are trying to reach those who are especially interested in a unique bond for their pension funds. These funds are redeemable in 90 days. Monroe Zipp and Al Liebert are trying to rally those who wish to buy a regular bond. The Temple is not holding a dinner this year, so the responsibility for members to come forward is more strongly upon them. For information, call State of Israel Bonds, David Dubrow, 531-6731.

More and more of the U.S. industrial corporations are now investing in Israel bonds. Coca Cola recently held a major meeting with its bottlers to encourage them to invest in these bonds. Major banks are buying an increasing amount. The larger labor unions of the nation are investing because the investment is lucrative and sound. You and I have an extra reason to do so--we want to help the State of Israel.

Our goal is for every member of Beth Am to be a holder of an Israel Bond. Many of our members purchase a bond yearly like Rabbi and Mrs. Baumgard and the leaders of our drive.

At this time, when it seems that Israel is on the verge of peaceful negotiations, let us show her that we stand firmly behind her.

Bonds are sold in various denominations with the minimum figure set at \$250.00. Remember that the bonds represent a loan to the State of Israel and are redeemable after 15 years with interest.

CAMP COLEMAN OPENINGS

First Four Week Session

June 18 through July 16

For information, call 379-4553

Collegian Service Fri., Dec. 30, 8:30 PM Students To Read Service

SPECIAL RECEPTION AFTERWARDS

Our annual religious service presented by collegians will be on Friday, December 30, at 8:30 p.m. Young people home from college will read the service. There will be a special reception (for collegians only) to be held in the Youth Lounge immediately following services. There will be a juke box for dancing, ping pong tables and other recreational games. Refreshments will be served.

Collegians interested in appearing in the service, or in helping with the reception, are urged to contact Selma in the Rabbi's office. Rabbi Baumgard will speak on the theme, "What Every Collegian Should Know About Judaism, But Has Been Afraid To Ask."

Collegians are again reminded (or their parents) to send in their name, address, and phone number to Rabbi Baumgard in order to receive mailings and to set up possible visits from the Rabbi to their college.

Adult Education Classes

ADULT CONFIRMATION CREDIT SEX AND SORROW IN THE BIBLE

Discussions and readings based on "The Song of Songs," "Job," and other biblical books

Instructor: Rabbi Herbert Baumgard, DHL, DD

Four Wednesdays, beginning January 25
8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Youth Lounge

No previous knowledge of Bible necessary.

No fees. Bring your Bible

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COLLEGE CREDIT COURSE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AT BETH AM JEWISH HISTORY NO. 342

A survey course, from Abraham to modern times.

Instructors: Dr. Howard Rock
Rabbi Herbert Baumgard, DHL

Youth Lounge, Beth Am, beginning Tuesday, January 3
7:30 to 10 p.m., 11 weeks for five-quarter college credits

Register through Marlene Price, 665-6228 (\$82.50)

Summer Camp Counsellor Interviews

Interviews for senior counsellors, junior counsellors and specialists for Beth Am's summer program will be held at the Temple in Room 28 on Wednesday, December 21. Applications for openings are available in the Temple office from Rhoda Bernheimer and should be brought with you at the time of the interview from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rose Ashbes, our director, will be conducting the interviews on the 21st. If you have any questions, Rose can be reached at home after 6:00 p.m. at 279-9791.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

The Pursuit Of Loneliness

Phillip Slater, professor at Brandeis, wrote a book some years ago entitled "The Pursuit Of Loneliness." The book consists of several chapters based on his study of college students of both sexes. Dr. Slater's basic point is that as young people place greater emphasis on their career and less on building a family life and becoming part of a community, they become less happy.

We all know that the god of today is the self, and the religion is self-fulfillment. In one way or another, we all worship that god and pursue that religion. We have taught our children a little of this, and our society has pressured them in that direction. There is only one problem with this religion--it does not bring long term happiness.

Recently, I have had a number of young people come into my office to tell me that they feel entrapped. They are entrapped by their own gullibility and by their determination to "fulfill" themselves. The more they have tried to find out "who I am," the more entrapped they have felt. Their stories have different details, but they are similar in basic impact. These young people have obtained degree after college degree, they have slept with many different lovers, they have traveled around the world, but they have few real friends, they are estranged from their family, and they are miserable.

Some of these young people are ready to learn the simple truths of the centuries. Happiness comes when you are part of a meaningful and continuing group. This starts with one's blood family, to which one has the responsibility to contribute and maintain. For Jewish people, there is an extra bonus of being part of the larger mishpacha of a people which is four thousand years old and which offers a purpose, a life style, and institutions which can be inspirational and supportive.

Some of our young people are learning this the hard way. Some few are able to learn it right away. The latter are the exceptions in today's world. The Jewish family and the Jewish community, with its lofty ideals and warm life style, has just what our young people are seeking, but what we have to offer is too close for them to see. One is reminded of the old legend which goes this way. When God created mankind,

He wanted to conceal "immortal life" from them, for this was not to be man's destiny. "Where shall I hide it," God asked His angels. "Hide it in man's heart and brain," suggested the angels, "He will never look for it there." The search for happiness is directed today in a frantic way towards the far corners of the earth, but our prayer book says "Natah b'tochaynu chayai olam." "God has placed eternal life within us--in our very midst." It is as close as family love, and a daring people, and as close as a unique tradition.

WOMEN AT THE CROSSROADS

Where do I go from here with my life?

Many women are at the crossroads. If you are one of them, this group will help you identify the path that is right for you.

The group will be conducted by Marjorie Willensky, a former assistant dean at Brandeis University. She has extensive experience in career workshops, individual career counseling and test interpretation. She has lectured nation-wide on the topic of career development. Enrollment in this workshop will be limited to ten. There is no fee other than \$5 for materials. Six Thursday evenings, beginning January 12, 8 to 10 p.m., in Room 27. To enroll, call the Temple office. For more information, speak to Marjorie, 858-2872.

COLLEGE TRIPS PLANNED BY RABBI MAILINGS TO COLLEGIANS GOING OUT

Rabbi Baumgard's tour of the colleges where we have a significant number of students has been tentatively set, but there are still a few other possibilities. In February, the Rabbi is planning to visit Tampa, Tallahassee, and Gainesville. He may also visit Atlanta (Emory) on this trip since some names have come in from that area. The Boston trip is tentatively set for April.

It is felt that the Temple has a sufficient number of students in St. Louis (Washington University) to warrant a trip there, but none of the students have sent their names in. The same is true of New Orleans.

Even if the Rabbi does not visit a particular area, mailings of materials especially suited to collegians will be sent to all of those whose names are registered with the Rabbi. This is your last chance to send in the name of your child. Please do so now.

Dear Rabbi Baumgard:
% Beth Am, 5950 N. Kendall Dr., Miami 33156
Enclosed is the name and address of my collegian.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

(Please print)

JOAN'S GEMS

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Good news from the Millard and Betty Suid household. Son, Craig, was elected to National Honor Society at South-west Senior High School. He was also selected for the Spanish National Honor. Son, Paul, is attending the University of Florida and has received an accounting internship with the prestigious Arthur Anderson Company. . . . Elisha, son of Barbara and Tom Powell, is serving as president of the junior class at Southridge High School. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the Five Special Honor Society. How about that!

Congratulations to Joe Solomon who has been elected president for the second time to the South Florida Chapter, Associated General Contractors of America.

TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED DEC. 26 AND JAN. 2

December 25th and January 1st are national holidays which fall on Sunday. Since both days will be celebrated on Mondays, which is customary, the Temple office will be closed on both Mondays, December 26 and January 2. Happy new year to all from the Temple staff.

Bnai

Mitzvah



Saturday
December 24
11:15 a.m.

Edward, son of
Mrs. Lois Douglas
Mr. Melvin Douglas
Randi, daughter of
Mrs. Linda Hellman