



Beth Am Commentator

January 7, 1977

Miami, Florida

FAMILY SERVICE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 7:30 p.m., RABBI BAUMGARD

"The God With Two Faces"

Choir of the Month: Beth Americans

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

Announcing The BETH AM CULTURAL SERIES

Featuring outstanding professionals in the field
of music, religion, and the associated arts

Friday, January 14, 8:30 p.m.

DR. HARRY M. ORLINSKY

Bible Scholar of International Reputation

"Predicting The Future--
The Difference Between Seer And Prophet"

Friday, February 25, 8:30 p.m.

**THE JEWISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE
BROADWAY MUSICAL STAGE**

Brought back by popular demand
Featuring new songs and the soloists of the Temple Choir
Original narration by Rabbi Baumgard

Friday, March 18, 8:30 p.m.

CANTOR HAROLD ORBACH

of Detroit, Michigan

President of the American Society of Cantors

A Musical Story
"The Jewish Migration from Eastern Europe"

Sunday, April 24, 8:30 p.m.

AN EVENING OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

Featuring Michele Levin Katz in piano concert

The public is invited to all events. There is no
admission charge except for the piano concert on April
24. The fee for this event is \$1 to members and their
guests.

Juvenile Justice Topic At Breakfast, Sunday, January 16

The increase in crime in the United States has brought out
one startling fact: that the increase in juvenile crimes is rising
at a faster rate than adult-committed crimes. How can we best
correct that problem for the protection of the public? How
old should a youngster be to be tried as an adult?

The seriousness of the juvenile offender problem was
strongly underlined last month when the Dade County League
of Women Voters conducted a week-long seminar to find
suggestions for possible legislative solutions. These are some of
the questions and problems to be discussed at the next
Brotherhood breakfast forum on Sunday, January 16, at
9:30 a.m., in the Youth Lounge. The discussion topic will be
OUR JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM - IS IT WORKING FOR
US OR AGAINST US?

Participants in this discussion are Ms. Joanne Wragge,
editorial writer and columnist for the Miami News, and Circuit
Court Judge Seymour Gelber, attached to the Juvenile
Court, who is also presently chairman of the Miami Beach
Mayor's Committee for the Study of Violence in the Public
Schools. Admission to the breakfast discussion is \$1.00 for
Brotherhood members and \$1.50 for non-members.

Winter Adult Ed Schedule Underway

This Tuesday, January 4, the continuing course in Bible and
Commentaries resumes in the library from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday afternoon, a comprehensive class (six hours a week)
in conversational Hebrew for beginners and intermediates
begins in Room 24. This class will meet Tuesdays and Thurs-
days from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. through April. Register at the
first session.

There's another chance to take Lenore Kipper's Hebrew
From Scratch In Only Four Weeks, beginning Thursday
morning, January 20, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in Room 24. Call
the Temple office to register for this four week course.

RABBI BAUMGARD TEACHES MONDAY EVENINGS

Rabbi Baumgard will be offering Jeremiah Super Superstar
on four Monday evenings, beginning January 17, 7:15 to 9:15
p.m. This is part of the Parent Confirmation course, but all
are welcome to attend.

Rabbi Chefitz repeats his four week course in Sex Ethics
and the Jewish Framework beginning this Wednesday evening,
8:00 to 10:00 p.m., in Room 28.

The Basic Judaism course meets every Friday night through-
out the year at 7:30 p.m. (8:30 when there are family services)
in Room 28

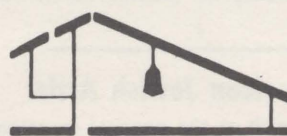
Rabbi Saperstein's 'Social Action Roadshow' To Be Held Saturday, January 22 At 3:00 P. M.

A lively, vital "Social Action Roadshow," featuring Rabbi
David Saperstein of Washington, D.C., co-sponsored by Temple
Beth Am and Temple Judea, will be presented at Temple
Judea, in Coral Gables, on Saturday, January 22, at 3:00 p.m.,
in the Youth Hall. Admission is free.

Known throughout the country for his dynamic personality
and presentations, Rabbi Saperstein most engagingly makes
his audiences more informed and socially aware. His "Road-
show" is geared for family viewing and would be a fine
Saturday outing for your group.

As associate director of the UAHC Religious Action
Center in Washington, Rabbi Saperstein watches legislation
and supplies information and direction to social action com-
mittees.

Mark this lively performance on your calendar; it will be
well worth your time to see it and be informed and inspired
by Rabbi Saperstein.



The Committee Of 100

The Committee of 100 is happy to welcome to their
ranks the following family:

Donald and Rose Sobol



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

On Forgiveness And Responsibility

Amongst other things, our Bible is the story of how God related to mankind, especially through his steward-people, the Israelites. A great deal was demanded of these people, whom God calls "My servant." The other peoples did not have a moral code with the intense demands placed on the Hebrews by their God. Unquestionably, the Hebrews were more ethical and chaste than their neighbors, yet their God still complained that they weren't living up to their full capabilities. He called their failures a breach of the Brit, or Covenant.

In the ancient Hebrew society, the main virtue required of all was Hesed, loyalty to an agreement. A failure of loyalty, a failure to keep the obligations of one's agreement, was "sin," a grievous thing. The non-Israelites had no such concept, so their sense of sin was less acute. For the pagans, a sin was a failure to observe a magical ritual in the correct manner.

Since no people, however inspired and dedicated to a noble cause, could be perfect, since they would inevitably err or "sin," it was necessary for God, so the Bible states, to work out a compensatory outlet for sin. The Bible tells us that this paradoxical God was both severely demanding, in the ethical sense, but extraordinarily forgiving. So entwined together were these biblical concepts of Hesed (loyalty to one's responsibilities) and forgiveness that the word Hesed came to have the dual meaning of loyalty-forgiveness.

The stronger party to a Brit, or agreement, had to show more Hesed (more loyalty and more forgiveness) than the weaker party. It was easily seen that God was the stronger party in the relationship between Him and the people Israel, but this God-people Brit was but the pattern for all other relationships in ancient Israel. Marriage was a Brit relationship, and the stronger party was supposed to show more loyalty-forgiveness than the weaker party. The family was a Brit relationship, and the parent was supposed to show more Hesed than the child.

Yet, the weaker party in a Brit was never treated in a condescending manner. He or she had to stand up to whatsoever he/she was capable of doing to the fullest extent. Forgiveness was not just magnanimity on the part of the stronger party. It had to be earned by a return of the weaker party to the obligations of the Brit (r'shuvah).

Firmness and love, justice and mercy, these are the attributes Judaism sees in its God. These are the qualities it teaches to its followers. There is a moral code in our religion. It can not be treated lightly. It is the sun around which our world revolves. We must hold it high always before us. Yet, we are bound to fall short of perfection, and when that happens, the person in power must practice forgiveness in order to see that the Brit relationship is maintained. For the greatest sin is not the failure to live up to all aspects of the agreement. The greatest sin is permitting the Brit to become completely dissolved. To the end of preserving the Brit, of maintaining the relationship in mutual give and take, all parties concerned must be dedicated.

Julia Busch Speaks On American Jewish Artist

Sisterhood will present Julia Busch at the general meeting, Wednesday, January 19, 9:30 a.m., in the Temple Social Hall. The cost of the morning will be \$1.50, which will include lox, cream cheese, bagels, and coffee. Reservations made before Friday, January 14, will get a special prize. Call reservations now to Ann Fernandez, 274-9040, Betty Gold, 251-2752, Eva Rawicz, 233-2861, or the Temple office, 667-5587.

BAFTY NEWS

BAFTY, the Beth Am Federation of Temple Youth, is proud to announce that David Lesser and Gayle Pomerantz were the two winners in BAFTY's annual sermonette contest. The two will represent BAFTY in the regional contest of the Southeast Federation of Temple Youth (SEFTY) at its winter convention, to be held in Atlanta during the winter vacation.

BAFTY will be having several exciting events during the month of January. January 2 will be a game and contest night with basketball, ping pong, foosball, knock hockey, chess backgammon, and anything else anyone can think of to be the games played. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy themselves, putting out of their minds the return to school that will take place the next day.

On January 16, BAFTY will be taking a mystery bus ride. No one will know where we are headed, but all will know that it's going to be busloads of fun.

On January 30, BAFTY will be having a trivia night, in which the youth group's best and worst minds will battle over such significant questions as "What was the name of the clown on the Howdy Doody Show?" and "What Jewish king was married to Bathsheba?"

JOAN'S GEMS

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Just returning from a marvelous trip to Israel were Dr. Dan and Iris Franco and family who celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Stephen, in Israel, and Dr. Richard and Cessy Rubinson and family who celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Tommy, in Israel. . . . Mazel tov to Leo and Rose Gelber upon the birth of their second grandchild, a boy, named David, son of Alan and Susan Kwoczka. . . . Did you know that J. Arthur Goldberg is president of the Florida-Israel Chamber of Commerce? . . . We are happy to let you know that Joy Sandra, daughter of Howard and Iris Kaplan, has graduated from the University of Florida as a teacher of social studies. . . . Lori, daughter of Harriet and Joel Dorfman, announces her engagement to Robert Feldman, son of Paul and Eleanor Feldman. Mazel tov to all our Beth Amites.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Calendar Open Through 1982

If you have not already set the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date of your child, please do so today. The calendar is open through the year 1982.

Please note that it is required that a child must attend a minimum of three years of weekend Religious School and three years of mid-week Hebrew prior to the ceremony in order to earn the privilege of Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Call the Temple office today, 667-5587, and reserve your date. Dates are given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bnai Mitzvah

Friday, January 7
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 8
11:15 a.m.



Suzanne, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Glick



Laurie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Katz



Richard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moses



Jeff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rubin