

# Beth Am Commentator

May 6, 1977

Miami, Florida

Rabbi H.M. Baumgard

## "THE FISH AND THE FOX"

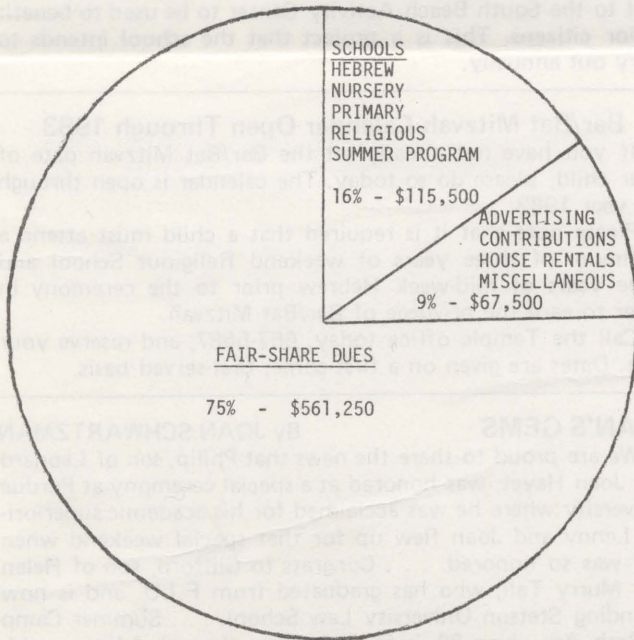
Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m., FAMILY SERVICE

Saturday, May 7, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

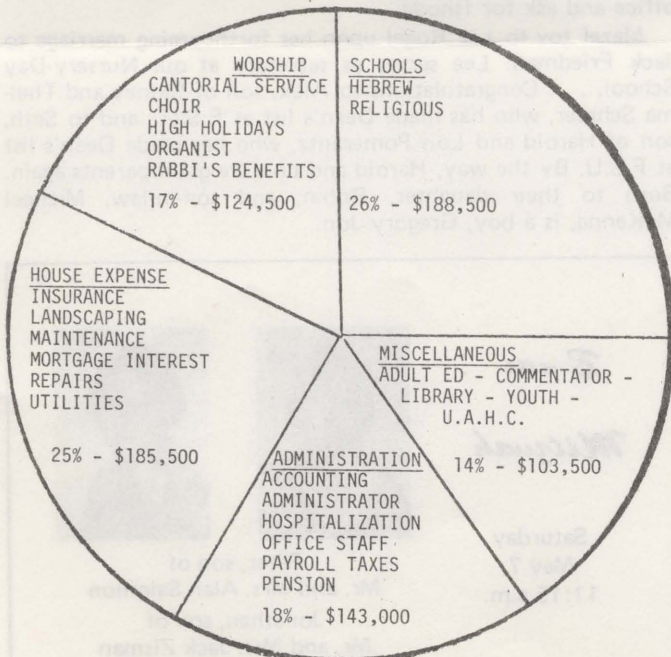
### Budget Of 1977-78 Reaches Record

At the last Board meeting, the Temple Board adopted the budget as proposed by the budget committee. The budget for 1977-78 will total almost \$750,000.00. This does not include the operation of the Nursery/Kindergarten/Day School or the summer program. Shown below are two "pies" which show our sources of income and our areas of expenses.

#### WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



#### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



### Congregation-Installation Dinner May 13 Highlighted By Yiddish Sing-Along

Reservations are being taken now for the Congregation-Installation Dinner, to be held Friday evening, May 13, 6:15 p.m., in the Social Hall. The price is \$6 per person.

Officers and board members of the Temple, Brotherhood, and Sisterhood, who will be serving for the year 1977-78, will be installed. Outgoing officers and boards will be honored also.

In addition to the sumptuous catered dinner, complete with proper wines, the congregation will be taken down memory lane with a happy "Yiddish Sing-Along," led by golden voiced Stan Mintz, accompanied by Nancy Friedman on the piano. With the aid of the song sheets we distribute, you can join Stan in singing the wonderful old tunes Bubbe and Zaide taught you, and relive the good old times.

Join us to share a memorable evening; enjoy the combination of solemnity and good-natured joshing as we honor our boards and officers. Have the pleasure of being with old and new friends at a fine congregational dinner. Please make your reservation by May 10.

#### INSTALLATION DINNER RESERVATION FORM (Mail or bring to Temple by May 10)

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for me at \$6 each.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

No. Res. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$6 Amount of Check \_\_\_\_\_

### Looking For Jewish Identification For Your Children?



### Summer Program Is The Answer Course On Modern Sex Starts May 18

Four Wednesday evenings, beginning May 18, at 8:00 p.m., Rabbi Chefitz and prominent Miami psychiatrists, Drs. Mort Notarius, Howard Golden, and Harry Graff, will begin a four week symposium working toward the evolution of a satisfactory sex ethic for our time.

The symposium will draw from both the psychologic and rabbinic frameworks in an attempt to establish an appropriate frame of reference pertaining to sexual conduct. Topics covered will be adult sexuality, sexuality in childhood and adolescence, and sexual dysfunction.

We anticipate a brisk interdisciplinary dialogue, not only between the respondents, but also among the participants. Participation is open to all. There is no fee. Please register in advance by calling the Temple office.



## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

### How Does God Reveal Himself?

Children have asked me often, "Rabbi, if God spoke to Moses and to Abraham, why doesn't He speak now?" Out of the mouth of babes, sometimes, comes wisdom. This is a question every religious person owes it to himself to pursue. Has God stopped speaking, or is it that we are unable to hear Him speak? Let us look back into Jewish history to come to some understanding in this matter.

At first, our fathers accepted the old notions of mankind that God only appeared on rare occasions to a few selected individuals. Even today, throughout the Christian world, there are shrines where God is said to have appeared to certain rare individuals, and these shrines are regarded as unique and holy places. Some of them are considered to have special healing powers, and Christians (especially Catholics) will journey to these shrines, coming from all over the world to be healed of certain diseases. Abraham, like his contemporaries, thought that God chose only a few places to appear, and when Abraham seemed to hear a voice pleading with him not to sacrifice his son, Isaac, and advising him to substitute, instead, a lamb, Abraham named that place "Adonai Yireh," which means, "the place where the Lord may be seen."

While our fathers took over some of the ideas of their contemporaries, they always managed to add a new dimension to the old idea. Our fathers taught that if God reveals Himself, if He appears to a chosen person, it is only to teach some new idea or to urge that person to perform a difficult and meaningful task. In the case of Abraham and the sacrifice of Isaac, we are told that God was trying to teach men that human sacrifice was evil and that animal sacrifice was a preferable substitute. The makers of war, it would seem, have not yet learned that human sacrifice is evil. They have not yet shared this revelation. When God appeared to Moses in the desert in the form of a burning bush, Moses understood that he had to leave the safety of the desert to return to Egypt where he was a wanted man. The revelation came to Moses as a call, a call to the dangerous task of leading his people out of slavery.

#### NEW CONCEPT OF REVELATION

Judaism can only be considered as an evolving and growing religion; for the next time that God appears to Moses, we are told that He instructs Moses in an entirely new concept of revelation. The Bible tells us that on Mt. Sinai, God gave Moses the law, the Torah, and, henceforward, it became possible for all men to discover the will of God as it is revealed in the Torah. While Moses alone spoke with God "side by side," according to the Bible, nonetheless, he passed on to the general Hebrew community all that God instructed him. Thus, every Hebrew who subsequently studied the Torah and followed its laws was as if he, too, were in direct contact with God Himself. Henceforward, in Judaism, the Torah was the vehicle through which every man could touch God and behold the burning bush for himself. Men no longer had to travel to distant shrines to find a holy place. The Torah itself was a universal and portable shrine, carrying the presence of God with it.

Just recently, a young lady, who is in the process of converting to Judaism, came to a service here in Beth Am and asked, "Rabbi, why does the congregation show such reverence for the Ark? I notice that you rise whenever it is opened." she said, "but I do not understand the reason for your rising." I tried to explain to her that it is not the Ark we Jews revere, but the Torah itself. For, according to Jewish tradition, he who honors the Torah, honors God. I said to her, "We Jews believe that the ethical law is evidence of the reality of God."

## Summer Program

### Starts Next Month

MEMBERS PRIORITY  
THROUGH MAY 27



#### PRE-SCHOOL/DAY SCHOOL CHARITY DRIVES

The children of Beth Am Pre-School and Day School earned \$330.67 for the Matzah Fund during March, 1977. These monies were collected from a variety of activities held on school grounds: bake sales, school flea market, selling drinks and popcorn, plus many other projects. Each class ran its own tzedakah project besides having the children earn money on their own from baby sitting, dog washing, window washing, car washing, lawn care, etc. The total amount was sent to the South Beach Activity Center to be used to benefit senior citizens. This is a project that the school intends to carry out annually.

#### Bar/Bat Mitzvah Calendar Open Through 1983

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 1983.

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.

#### JOAN'S GEMS

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

We are proud to share the news that Philip, son of Leonard and Joan Hayet, was honored at a special ceremony at Purdue University where he was acclaimed for his academic superiority. Lenny and Joan flew up for that special weekend when Phil was so honored. . . . Congrats to Clifford, son of Helen and Murry Tall, who has graduated from F.I.U. and is now attending Stetson University Law School. . . . Summer Camp at Beth Am, June 20, is for kids three through 14 years old. A perfect way for your children to spend a summer mixed with athletics and Judaica. For information, call the Temple office and ask for Rhoda.

Mazel tov to Lee Rogel upon her forthcoming marriage to Jack Friedman. Lee serves as secretary at our Nursery-Day School. . . . Congratulations to Alex, son of Sidney and Thelma Schreer, who has made Dean's list at F.S.U., and to Seth, son of Harold and Lois Pomerantz, who has made Dean's list at F.S.U. By the way, Harold and Lois are grandparents again. Born to their daughter, Robin, and son-in-law, Michael McKenna, is a boy, Gregory Jon.

*Bnai*

*Mitzuah*

Saturday  
May 7  
11:15 a.m.



Peter, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Salomon



Jonathan, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Zisman