



Beth Am Commentator

May 20, 1977

Miami, Florida

Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard

WHAT DO WE NEED ORGANIZED RELIGION FOR?

Friday, May 20, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Saturday, May 21, 9:15, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

Facts You Should Know About Our Budget Annual Operating Costs

(Anticipated for 1977-78)

\$745,000.00

* * * * *

This means

(Based on a Membership of 1,400 Families)

OPERATING COST PER FAMILY: \$532.00

Minimum Fair Share Dues: \$450.00

* * * * *

COST PER RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL STUDENT: \$146.00

Your Tuition Fee: \$50.00

* * * * *

COST PER HEBREW
SCHOOL STUDENT: \$120.00

Your Tuition Fee: \$50.00

* * * * *

COST OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES: \$16,000.00

Your Youth Activities Fee: \$0.00

* * * * *

THESE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Young People Present Creative Service Teachers Honored Friday, May 20

On Friday night, May 20, at 8:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary, BAFTY, the senior Temple youth group, will present a creative service. The theme of the service will be "Interpretations of God-Who and What Is He?"

Several Beth Am veteran teachers will be honored as part of Teacher Sabbath, and Rabbi Baumgard will speak on the theme, "What Do We Need Organized Religion For?"

Samuel Hollander, who has taught for Beth Am for 13 years, and who has taught in Miami Jewish religious schools for a lifetime, will be honored on the occasion of his retirement from active teaching. Helen Tall will be honored for completing ten years in our Religious School.

They're Off And Running At Calder For Sisterhood Stars May 25

All those busy bees from Sisterhood who have worked, spent, given of their time, effort and love in behalf of the many worthwhile projects that Sisterhood has undertaken this year . . . all of them are going to the races on Wednesday, May 25.

Sandi Cook, Sisterhood's official star maker in this year of the star on Kendall Drive, has announced that, according to her records, nearly 40 members have already qualified by earning one or more full stars. A star (donor) is earned by contributing \$60 or its equivalent in time and effort on various Sisterhood projects or in purchases through the Judaica Shop, the various auctions, and the like. Senior Sisterhood members have somewhat reduced requirements for earning star.

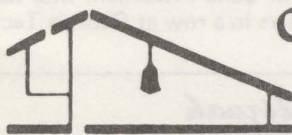
The day at the races will begin with a chartered bus leaving with the stars from the Temple to spend a day at Calder. This will be followed by a fabulous luncheon in a glass-enclosed private dining room in the club house where the Sisterhood members and their guests can watch the races. After luncheon, the Sisterhood stars will then be escorted to private box seats to watch the horses running.

All Sisterhood members who have not yet received notice that they have earned their full star and who want to check on their status, should immediately contact Rhoda Bernheimer at the Temple office, 667-5587.

Shavuot Comes Monday, May 23 Commandments Received On This Date

Shavuot is the holiday on which we dedicate ourselves to the Ten Commandments which were given to the Jewish people at this season. Beth Am observes the festival with a special service on Monday, May 23, at 10 a.m. This is a recommended public school holiday.

The three main festivals in our calendar are Passover, Sukkot, and Shavuot. Shavuot is commonly called "The Time of the Giving of the Law." At this season, our forefathers accepted the commandments as a contractual responsibility (covenant or bris). Here in Beth Am, graduates of the tenth grade are asked to accept the responsibility of this covenant as part of their confirmation. The confirmation service this Year will not be held until June 5.



Committee Of 100 Seeks Members

In a special mail appeal to members over the past two months, ten new families have volunteered to join the Committee of 100 for the fiscal year which starts on July 1, 1977. Their names are printed below. All members of the congregation should thank these families for their efforts since it is only by contributions like this that our budget ends up in balance. There is no limit to the number of families needed for this committee. All are welcome. Can you join?

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

Irwin and Helene Adler	Dr. Richard and Cessy Rubinson
Irwin and Marcia Blocker	Seymour and Myra Schulemson
Leonard and Rita Deutsch	Dr. Gilbert and Natalie Snyder
Sam and Anne Gold	Sam and Shirley Steen
Dick and Wendy Lapidus	Dr. Fred and Carolyn Wasserman

MONDAY, MAY 23, TEMPLE OFFICE AND NURSERY/KINDERGARTEN/DAY SCHOOL
CLOSED IN CELEBRATION OF SHAVUOT



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

How Have The Jews Survived?

Pharoah afflicted the Hebrews mightily, yet they survived. What was their secret of survival? No doubt, they had a great spiritual reservoir, but they had something else. They had children. The Bible tells us that no matter how much the Egyptians afflicted their slaves, they increased in numbers.

Father Flannery, in his book, "The Anguish of the Jews," documents in a scholarly fashion the killing of five million Jews by the non-Jewish communities of Europe BEFORE Hitler began his carnage. Yet, the Jews of Europe survived these pogroms. They survived because they kept reproducing.

Sociologists who visited the concentration camps of Hitler tell us that even in the camps, Jews were having children. When the Nazis were finally conquered, there were some elderly survivors, but there were young Jews also. These youngsters were able to begin a new life and to help in the rebuilding of Israel and the Jewish community in general.

Are modern young Jews carrying this secret of Jewish survival with them? I don't think so. The last thing many young Jews want today is children. They seem disinclined to reproduce for many reasons: (1) they aren't getting married; (2) if they are married, having children interferes with their life style, with their enjoyment of life; (3) they get married with one foot in the divorce court, so they don't want to have too many children around when the split comes; (4) they learned in college that the world is suffering from overpopulation, so, to be loyal to the survival of mankind, they decide not to aggravate this problem. All of these reasons add up to one thing—the disappearance of the Jewish people. They add up to genocide, only this is a genocide committed by a people upon itself. In short, it is suicide. A Jewish youngster who chooses not to have children strikes a blow against the Jewish people. (Some parents can't have children; that's a different matter entirely).

The statistics are already showing the results of the trend. Jewish population in America is down. We are declining even more rapidly in terms of our percentage of the total population in America (other groups are not so dedicated to the solving of the problem of overpopulation).

What is happening to young Jews with respect to the having of children is the result of the fact that they are part of the American middle class. They demonstrate the thinking and convictions of non-Jews who are part of the middle class. Middle class youngsters go to college and learn (1) they are part of humanity; (2) humanity is suffering from overpopulation, bad marriages, sexual repression, and guilt feelings about obligations to others. They are educated from early childhood to fulfill themselves and to seek their personal happiness. They are not educated about their responsibilities to the family and to their community (to the Jewish people). Our Jewish youngsters, like the heroes of Bellow's novels, are cut adrift from their Jewish background and wander aimlessly in the sea of universalistic confusion. There is only a mock heroism about Bellow's heroes. There is only a mock heroism about so many of our most brilliant and best educated Jewish youngsters.

What to do about it? Do what you can personally every day for Jewish survival. See that you survive as a Jew. Educate your children as to their responsibility towards Jewish survival, including the having of Jewish children. Wear a sign on your chest, as I do, reading "Have a Jewish kid today!"

THE PLACE

For Teenagers who want to talk to someone

WANDER IN — CONFIDENTIAL

7220 Bird Road

Tel.: 264-8071

Sponsored by Greater Miami Jewish Federation

BAR/BAT MITZVAH REGISTRATION

1) Complete at least three years in the weekend Religious School and the midweek Hebrew School. (At least from the child's tenth through his or her twelfth year).

2) Complete the pre-Bar Mitzvah training with the Rabbis to their satisfaction.

3) In addition, the parents must agree that the child will continue in the weekend school at least through the eighth grade. This will carry the child about two years past Bar/Bat Mitzvah. (THE CHILD MAY NOT DROP OUT.)

4) The emphasis in Beth Am, as a Reform congregation, is on Confirmation, which comes at the end of the tenth grade. We consider the child who drops out of Religious School after Bar/Bat Mitzvah as being seriously deficient in religious training.

5) The best time for the child to register for Hebrew School is at nine years of age. The child learns better at this age and resists less.

JOAN'S GEMS

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Congratulations to Robbie, son of Alan and Esther Kessler, who has been elected to National Honor Society at Ransom Everglades. Robbie will attend Northwestern in the fall. . . . Did you know that Robert S. and Sharon Goldberg won first place in the Brotherhood tennis tournament? Sharon also won third place in the tennis tournament for all B leagues at the California Club which encompasses Dade and Broward areas. . . . We are proud to share the news that Jordana, daughter of David and Gisele Hollander, is a National Merit Scholarship finalist and has been accepted to M.I.T. in the fall. . . . Did you know that Natalie Snyder is a member of the Board of Directors of Channel 2 Public Television and this busy lady also finds time for the Guild of the Museum of Science, Mental Health Association, League of Women Voters, and the South Florida Conference for Soviet Jewry?

Congrats to Debbie, daughter of June Friedman, who has been on the Dean's List two quarters in a row at Georgia Tech where she is studying engineering.

B'nai Mitzvah

Saturday, May 21

9:15 a.m.

11:15 a.m.



Linda, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rappaport



Lawrence, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Rich



Richard, son of Mrs. Lenny Stein