



beth am commentator

December 29, 1978

Miami, Florida

Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard

"THE ATTEMPT TO PAGANIZE JUDAISM, 2000 YEARS AGO AND TODAY"

Candlelight Ceremony

Friday, December 29th, 8:30 p.m. RELIGIOUS SERVICE
Saturday, December 30th, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

SISTERHOOD NEWS

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE YOUNG, YOU ARE THINKING YOUNG!!

We don't say you'll be "born again," but we do say you'll be "thinking young" when you attend the Community Forum on "A Touching Topic: Our Beginnings," on Wednesday, January 17th in the Social Hall. Registration and Continental Breakfast will begin at 9:00 A.M. Sponsored by The Parent Resource Center of Dade County and Sisterhood, in observance of International Year of the Child, 1979, the film "Mother-Infant Interaction" will be shown. The following popular panelists from our community will lead the discussion: UNA HUTTON, Program Director of The Parent Resource Center of Dade County, KAREN KERR, President of the National Association for the Advancement of Leboyer's Birth Without Violence, SIMA LESSER, our own Temple's N/K Day School Director, DR. DAVID WEISFELD, our own Temple member/teacher, Psychologist, and Director of Alpha House, and DR. BARRY ZWIBELMAN, University of Miami Counseling Psychologist and President of Childbirth and Parent Education Association. Since everyone was once a child, this program will have relevance to everybody. So bring a friend or more (neighbors, parents, grandparents). Donation \$2.00. R.S.V.P. Temple Office-667-5587.

NOMINATING TIME

Sisterhood President, Sandi Simon, reminds us that the Sisterhood Nominating Committee members will be selected during the January 17 meeting.

MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO PARTY RESERVATIONS WITH MILLIE 238-2238.



NEW YEAR'S DISCO PARTY AT TEMPLE

Dancing

Disc Jockey

Catered Food

\$15.00 per person donation

Last Call For Reservations

Millie Infeld, Chairman

238-2238

*Party to the wee hours
in the morning*



CHANUKAH CANDLELIGHT SERVICE CELEBRATED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH, AT 8:30 P.M.

Collegians Will Lead Service

The annual Candlelight Service in honor of Chanukah will be held on Friday night, December 29th, at 8:30 p.m. All those attending are asked to bring a chanukah candle (protected by aluminum foil) which will be lit as part of the service. Shira Eisenberg will lead a group of young people in an interpretive dance as part of the service.

Rabbi Baumgard will speak on the theme, "The Attempt to Paganize Judaism, 2000 Years Ago and Today."

Special Oneg

The Oneg Shabbat will be sponsored by our active Huvurah groups and will feature a luscious array of home baked delicacies. Don't miss this beautiful celebration of our Chanukah Festival.

Collegians Participate

The Service will be led by Beth Am Collegians home for the holidays. Collegians are particularly urged to attend this service and meet their friends at the Temple.

Light Chanukah Candles

Chanukah started on Sunday evening, December 24th at sundown. The first candle should have been lit at that time and one additional candle each night for 8 nights. The blessings for the lighting of the candle was printed in last week's Commentator.

CONFIRMATION CLASS/BAFTY RETREAT JAN. 6—PROGRAM ON MIAMI BEACH

On Friday evening, January 5, while the congregation is participating in a Shabbat family service in the sanctuary, members of the 10th grade Confirmation class will be presenting a service of their own for their entire class. A special Oneg Shabbat will follow.

On Saturday morning, January 6, over 100 members of BAFTY, our senior youth group, will board busses for Miami Beach where we will improvise a synagogue on 5th Street Beach and conduct a Torah service. After the service, the group will divide into small Experience Teams and conduct a program on the beach, involving the residents, searching back through as many generations and as many kinds of Jewish experience as possible. These will be collected and edited over a picnic lunch. Then, back on the busses and back to the Temple, where we will present the material collected to the group as a whole.

The afternoon will be spent on the athletic field and in preparation for the evening's program, which will include a disco dance and conclude at midnight with a Havdallah service.

This is the type of thing that BAFTY is doing! If you are a high school student, don't you think you should be involved?!

GIVE US THE ADDRESS OF YOUR COLLEGIAN

1. We will send our special collegian materials.
2. If enough of our young people are at the college, we will visit the college and your collegian.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ College _____

Repeat information for second child. Mail to Rabbi Baumgard, 5950 No. Kendall Drive, Miami, Fla. 33156.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

MAKING AN ADJUSTMENT AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Every Jew, whether he or she is aware of it, has an adjustment to make at Christmas time. It is at this season that the Jew becomes very much aware that he is a member of a minority. When most of the population is celebrating the birth of their God (Christ-day) and when the airwaves are filled with songs about Jesus, it is impossible for one who disbelieves in this God to feel other than different, or even isolated.

For Jewish children, the problem is even more intense. What a jolt it is to hear about Santa Claus a hundred times a day! What a disappointment it is to observe beautiful Xmas trees and to be told that they are not for you! Many of us suffer such a trauma when we are young that we carry it forward into our adulthood and project our sense of disappointment on to our children. ("Rabbi, what can I say to my child when he insists on a Chanukah Bush?")

I understand all of these things. I was a Jewish child myself once in a very non-Jewish environment. I grew up in Norfolk, Virginia, where anti-semitism was rampant.

The wise Jewish adult will understand these forces stirring within himself, and he will understand that the only effective way not to feel "left out" at Xmas time is to become the more deeply involved in his own holiday and in his own faith. The wise adult will understand what the Jewish child is thinking, and he will help him to experience joy at Chanukah and to be proud of his own Jewishness.

It is idle of course to say things like, "Be proud you are a Jew". You have to get involved in things Jewish. You have to read the history of your people that resulted in the Chanukah celebration. You have to consider, at length, the courage of your people who refused to accept the idea that one man (a Jew) could become God, because they believe that all humans are created "in the image of God", none more than others. To become proud of one's Jewishness one has to sing its songs, perform its rituals, act out its different set of ethics.

To be proud of one's Jewishness, one must light the Chanukah candles - with feeling; this one is for Judas Maccabeus who refused to bow down before the statue of Zeus which had been brought into the Jewish Temple; this candle is for the tiny band of Jewish soldiers that fought against the chariots and elephants of the Greco-Syrian army rather than accept a pagan religion. And this candle - maybe that's for you - for your courage in not taking the easy way out.

The end of the calendar year under which we now operate is a good time for one to rehearse one's Jewishness. This is the time of the year of the Roman Saturnalia which often ended in orgy, in drunkenness and in sexual licentiousness. The Jewish community stood outside of this celebration. It preferred to have its fun in other directions. To rehearse one's Jewishness is, in a way, to assert one's view of a higher role for mankind other than orgy. Certainly this is a good time of the year to think about the purpose of creation (re we just victims of a burning cinder?), about God's purpose for mankind, about our individual purpose.

Our Jewish tradition speaks of the potential within all human beings because all of us are created in the image of the divine. How can we best honor that potential, how best fulfill it? These are good thoughts for the turn of the year.

RABBIS' SERMONS AVAILABLE

1. Rabbi Baumgard: "Why Didn't the Jews Fight Back?" Some Thoughts on the Holocaust.
2. Rabbi Chefitz: "When Families Self-Destruct" An Expression of Concern With Current Forms of Sexual Experience.

THE PEOPLE MOVER IS COMING

P.A.T.I.O.

(Parents and Teachers Involvement Organization)

proudly presents

THE PEOPLE MOVER*



Sunday, January 14, 1979
2:00 p.m.

Beth Am Social Hall
Admission: \$2.00

MUSIC...MAGIC...original tunes, thought-provoking stories, and other surprises are just a part of this variety program designed for the entire family - children and their parents.

*THE PEOPLE MOVER is a regular summertime feature of the six Flags family theme parks.

Tickets are available for \$2.00 each by sending your check made out to Beth Am P.A.T.I.O., to the Temple office - 5950 N. Kendall Dr., Miami, Florida 33156.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

NO. TICKETS _____ CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____

Joan's Gems by Joan Schwartzman

We are indeed proud to announced that our own Beth Amite Ronnie Bogaev (Greenstein) will have a one person show at the David Findley Gallery in New York. The date for the occasion is March 7th..... Mazel to Laurel and Michael Anchors upon the birth of their daughter, Sarah Roshanne. Sarah was born on November 28th..... May I share some news. My eldest son Barry just received his Masters in Business at the University of South Florida..... We are delighted to give our "kudos" to Judy Liebling and Sharon Wasserman, two Beth Amites who will be graduating with honors from Florida International University's School of Social Work..... Much doing in the Sidney Fagin household. Wife Helen is the Director of Judaic Studies at the University of Miami; daughter Judy receiving her Masters in Architecture in Historical Restoration at Columbia; son Gary Musical Director of the Yale Repertory Theatre and a teacher of the String Quarter at Yale and musical director of the show "The 1940 Radio Hour" now on tour at Washington, D.C. Head of the household Sid reports, "I'm working for a living"

B'NAI MITZVAH

Saturday
December 30
11:15 a.m.



Adam Dishkin, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lebofsky

Joseph, son of
Mrs. Inez Kirts