

beth am commentator

MAY 26, 1978

MIAMI, FLORIDA

RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD

"LOYALTY TO THE FAMILY--A BIBLICAL LEGACY"

Friday, May 26, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Saturday, May 26, 9:15, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

ORIGINAL SERVICE, FRIDAY, JUNE 2 FEATURES CONFIRMATION OF ADULTS

This is the second year that Temple Beth Am has offered Confirmation to the adults of the congregation. The requirements for confirmation were increased this year from two courses to three--two mandatory courses in the area of Bible study, and one elective.

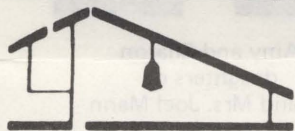
Thirteen adults will be confirmed during an original service being prepared by members of the young confirmation class. We extend our congratulations to our new adult confirmands, and also our appreciation, for, by such study, they have enriched not only themselves, but all of us. The following adults have reconfirmed and enhanced their identification with the Jewish people:

BARBARA BECKER	DR. ALLEN KATZ
MIRIAM CHERKAS	JOANNE KATZ
TRUDY GLASS	MELVIN KATZ
EVELYN GOODMAN	HAZEL KATZ
DR. JAMES GOODMAN	IRVIN POBBY
JANICE GOODMAN	LILLIAN POBBY
PAULINE WEISFELD	

SONG, DANCE, DRAMA--STUDENTS CREATE CONFIRMATION SERVICE FOR SUN., JUNE 4

The Broadway production "Pippin" provides the framework for the creative service being prepared by the nearly 120 members of the Confirmation class in celebration of their Confirmation, Sunday, June 4, at 10:00 a.m., in the sanctuary. It will be the story of the quest for meaning in a confusing world.

Confirmation represents the culmination of three years of work in the religious school. Three years of study are required for Confirmation, but most of our confirmands have been with us since kindergarden. It is a major achievement for these young people to reach Confirmation.



The Committee Of 100

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REJOIN FOR '78-'79

In a show of support, the following member families have rejoined the Committee of 100 for the new fiscal year which starts July 1, 1978. It is only through the generosity of members like these that Beth Am can continue its many programs for congregants of all ages and economic strata. They deserve our thanks.

Irwin and Helene Adler	David and Sydell Berman
Dr. Morton and Evelyn Axler	Neil and Nancy Braverman
Donald and Elaine Berkowitz	Harold and June Brown

(Continued on Page 3)

a summer place

Beth Am's summer program

MEMBERS PRIORITY THROUGH MAY 31

A DOLLAR A WEEK TO LICK INFLATION

What Is Your Fair Share?

In a few short days, we will be mailing re-registration forms for 1978-79 to all members in good standing. It's time for you as a member to consider what your Fair Share dues will be for the coming year. We at the Temple have been able to balance our budget for most of the past years due to expeditious controls, a growth in membership, and the generosity of our members in raising their level of Fair Share giving.

Our Constitution reads as follows: "The purpose of Temple Beth Am shall be to maintain a Reform religious institution that will meet the spiritual, educational, social and cultural needs of its members."

The Temple was founded on the premise that we all undertake to do our best to help our fellow man. The Temple has always maintained an open membership with families joining at whatever level of giving they could afford. All Jews can join, whatever their financial status.

This idealism and morality carries with it a corresponding obligation that each member do his share in helping with monetary support to sustain the Temple so that we can provide the highest levels of spiritual, educational, social and cultural needs of our members, both young and old.

THE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL

Our costs are ever rising. To explain what has happened to costs at the Temple would be a waste of words. Our costs have risen just like those in your home. Maintenance, light and power, salaries, insurance, etc., etc. are galloping upward.

We have kept our "schedule" of Fair Share giving at the same level as last year. Our operating cost per member family is \$547.00. Ideally, this would be the minimum dues figure for each member family, but we have left the so-called minimum at \$450.00. As a matter of fact, we have many families who cannot meet this dues figure and many families who pay little or nothing in the way of dues. We must rely on the generosity of those who can afford to contribute at a higher level for our support.

ONE DOLLAR A WEEK IS WHAT WE NEED

Each member family should assess themselves and understand that by their contribution, they are helping our youth, furthering Jewish education and assisting those less fortunate than themselves to attain membership in Beth Am. All levels of giving are asked to increase their Fair Share for this year. It is a matter for each member family to establish its Fair Share dues in keeping with its standard of living. Please remember that a \$50.00 increase over last year means you will be giving \$1.00 extra per week throughout the year. If every family in the congregation would increase its Fair Share dues by \$1.00 per week, our budget would be balanced. Beth Am can be proud that we are sound financially, and that its members have always contributed sufficient funds to meet our budget. We are sure this will be the case this year.

**TEMPLE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 29, MEMORIAL DAY**

Mazel

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

A Visit To Washington

Recently, I was one of many rabbis and Jewish community leaders invited to the White House for a ceremony celebrating the thirtieth birthday of the State of Israel. In spite of the attempt by some rabbis to treat this as a personal coup, the invitation seemed to be part of an attempt by the Carter administration to assure the Jewish community in general of its friendship and loyalty. The truth is that none of us got closer to the President than a hand-shake (likewise to Mr. Begin), but the situation was none the less an event of considerable interest.

Consider the fact that it was a beautiful Spring day and all the flowers and bushes in the capital city were in bloom. From the White House lawn, we could look across the lily garden to the Washington and Jefferson Memorials, which loomed in front of us. Carter's face was primed for television. He is a short man, but tall in comparison to Begin. Rosalind Carter was dressed most beautifully and appropriately. Her lavender suit contrasted softly with the white of the great house. Mrs. Begin was attired even more demurely in off-white.

The President had obviously worked hard on his speech. It was the best presentation I have ever heard him give. He said in effect that America's alliance with Israel would last "forever." "Forever" is a poetic word, not a diplomatic word, but I think it is a true sign of his feeling. The word "alliance" has many nuances, however, and even while the President spoke so warmly, we knew that his agents were trying to get the arms package for Saudi planes passed in the Congress.

Begin did not use notes as the President did. His speech was not as coordinated or as impressive. He said, "The President has just given the most moral speech I have ever heard."

Such a large crowd had to be accommodated on the lawn, of course, and not in the house. (There were, I would guess, four or five hundred present.) This was an unusual crowd, however, consisting as it did of Orthodox as well as more liberal rabbis (plus a relatively small number of laymen). I doubt if other crowds at other White House receptions literally took over the program from the designated main participants. When the two leaders first walked out on the lawn, the rabbis spontaneously broke into song. "Haveynu Shalom Aleychem," "We bring you greetings," they sang in Hebrew. After Carter's talk, they applauded vigorously, and introduced Begin with "Am Yisrael Chai," "The People of Israel Still Love." When the two talks were over and the guests of honor turned to go into the White House, the crowd sang "Ha-Tikveh, The Hope," now the national anthem of Israel, and "The Star Spangled Banner." One speech for Carter, one for Begin, and four songs for the crowd. You can't keep rabbis out of the show.

When we were permitted into the White House itself, it took only a few minutes before Orthodox rabbis had captured the "Map Room" and were "davaning," conducting an Orthodox religious service. Outside, under the trees, other minyanim (quorum groups) started their own service. The White House was converted into "The Western Wall"! I felt very good about this uniquely Jewish experience.

More significant political meetings took place on the sidelines. Senator Chiles was good enough to grant me a private 30 minute meeting, and I met with a South Florida group that were the guests of Representative Lehman in the House lunch room. There we spoke, as a group, with Lehman, Fascell, Rogers, and Pepper. All of these men have been extremely helpful in trying to get the best deal possible for Israel in the present arms package proposed by Carter. All in all, it was a highly worthwhile visit.

(Since the position of Senator Richard Stone is clearly with us, we devoted our sparse time to the other political representatives. Incidentally, Norman Lipoff, a Beth Amite and a leader of Federation, was also invited and present for the White House meeting.)

**LOUIS AND IRENE ZIFF
CELEBRATE 50th ANNIVERSARY MAY 28**

Beth Am is happy to help celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of long time and devoted members, Louis and Irene Ziff. The young couple will be called to the bimah for a special blessing at the Friday night service on May 28, 1978, at 8:30 p.m.

NOTICE FROM BETH AM LIBRARY

Jewish Libraries week is the last week of May. In honor of this, no overdue fines will be charged for any late books returned during that week. Now is your chance to find the stray books and bring them back--free!

JOAN'S GEMS

By JOAN SCHWARTZMAN

Mazel tov to Daryl, son of Dotty Olster and Even Olster, who won the National Merit scholarship. . . . Mazel to Shirah Eisenberg, daughter of Rabbi and Selma Baumgard, who received her Masters in social work at Barry College. Proud husband Gary is beaming!. . . Doris and Jack Hoffman will be participants in the Tropical Fantasy show of the South Dade Hibiscus Society at Fairchild Gardens on June 11. The show will run from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and all types of hibiscus will be on sale. Go see this beautiful display. By the way, Jack will be installed as president of the American Hibiscus Society at their annual convention in Fort Lauderdale in June.

May I share some good news? I'm proud to announce the forthcoming marriage of my eldest son, Barry, to Miss Leslie Hyman. The young couple plan a December wedding. . . . Congrats to Jeffrey, son of Marilyn Heier, who will graduate South Miami Senior High as salutatorian and who has received a scholarship to the University of North Carolina. . . . Read an interesting article about our own Ronnie Bogav (Greenstein) in the Herald recently. . . . Congrats to Andrew, son of Mary and Steve Quartin, who was a Silver Knight nominee in the field of mathematics.

*Bnai
Mitzvah*



Friday
May 26
8:30 p.m.

Amy and Sharon
daughters of
Dr. and Mrs. Joel Mann

Saturday, May 27
9:15 a.m.

Saturday, May 27
11:15 a.m.



James, son of
Mr. and Mrs.
Martin Butwin

Keith, son of
Dr. and Mrs.
Jerry Stolzenberg

Karen, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs.
Robert Josefsberg

Brian, son of
Mr. and Mrs.
Allan Wolk