



**RELIGIOUS SERVICE** Friday, December 14, 1979, 8:30 p.m.

*RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD*  
*"NARRATION OF THE CHANUKAH FESTIVAL"*

**TORAH SERVICE** Saturday, December 15th, 11:15 a.m.

## Beth Am Commentator

December 14, 1979

Miami, Florida

### **Brenda Shapiro Of American Jewish Committee Speaks On Family Life Sunday, Dec. 16th at 9:30 AM**

Recently President Carter established a Bureau of Family in the Dept. of HEW. The Jewish family in this country has been affected by these strong changes. The Jewish family problems will be the topic of discussion at the next Brotherhood Forum on Sunday morning, Dec. 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge. Speaker for this discussion will be Brenda Shapiro, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, Fla. Area, who will address herself to the question, 'THE AMERICAN FAMILY IS IT ALIVE AND WELL AND STILL JEWISH?' Mrs. Shapiro is a consultant to the Board of Public Instruction on Family Life Education, has been a member of the faculty of the Univ. of Miami, a well-known teacher and lecturer on Jewish Family Life. Her ideas on the Jewish Family are thought-provoking. It is very important that, we as active Jewish families, better understand what today's problems are and how they might affect future Jewish life.

Admission to this Brotherhood Breakfast Forum is \$1.50 for Brotherhood members and \$2.00 for non-members and visitors. The Forum always welcomes the ladies.

### **Adult Choir Sings Chanukah Songs Dec. 14 Rabbi Weinblatt To Be Installed**

The Adult Choir, under the direction of Selma Baumgard, will present its annual Chanukah Music Festival during the service on Friday, Dec. 14th, starting at 8:30 p.m. The Choir will sing Chanukah music that has seldom been done before. There will be a segment of songs for children and a few surprises. The Choir members are: SOPRANOS: Bernice Anapol, Iris Rosen, Roxanne Fines, Harriet Potlock, Debbie Robinson; ALTOS: Ann Aibel, Sylvia Weinberg, Doreen Marx, Pauline Levine, TENORS: Danny Green, Merle Hamm, BARITONES: Dr. Gerson Sacks, Ron Ruder, Steve Jenkins.

Rabbi Weinblatt has been serving with us since September, and a brief ceremony will be the vehicle for his investiture as a Rabbi of the congregation. Rabbi Baumgard will speak.

The annual Candlelight Service will be held the following Friday, December 21st, featuring the young people's choir led by Harriet Potlock. This service will start at 8:30 p.m.

### **CHANUKAH WORKSHOP**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 12  
8:00 PM IN THE YOUTH LOUNGE**

**The History, the Music, the Food, the Blessings  
the Rituals, the Legends, the Lore  
and more . . .**

**Come celebrate with Rabbi Chofitz and friends.  
One night only! No reservations necessary.**

### **Taxes And Charitable Donations**

Many of you will make your major contributions to charity in the approaching weeks of the year.

(1) The first basic rule is to act now to make your 1979 contributions cost you as little as possible after taxes.

(2) The second basic rule is to live with the understanding that only part of any charitable contribution you make comes out of your own pocket. The Federal Government in effect, shares the cost of every contribution.

(3) Individuals may make charitable contributions up to 50% of their adjusted gross income.

Contributions are deductible only if actually paid during the taxable year.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MAXIMUM BENEFITS ALLOWED BY THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAW.**

### **Students Of Beth Am To Raise Money For Cambodian Relief; Adults Invited**

As part of a movement encouraged by the Synagogue Council of America, all the young people at Beth Am will participate in a week of raising money for Cambodian relief.

Religious School youngsters are encouraged to bring their money on the weekend of December 15-16. Beth Am will send the total, as a present from our schools, through the national campaign of the Synagogue Council of America.

Adults who wish to make contributions may do so by sending in a check to the Temple, c/o Rabbi Baumgard, and made out to the Synagogue Council of America.

### **Summer Camp Counselor Interviews Friday, December 28 At Temple**

Counselor interviews for Summer Camp will be conducted at the Temple on Friday, December 28th, from 10:00 a.m. until noon by our Camp Director. Application forms can be obtained in the office from Rhoda Bernheimer. These applications should be filled in completely and filed with the office prior to the interview.

**SENIOR COUNSELORS** must have finished their first year of college. **JUNIOR COUNSELORS** must be entering the 11th grade in High School. Specialists are needed in **ART, BATON AND GYMNASTICS.**

### **Guardians of Beth Am**

Sam and Phyllis Rosen







### Meditation & Relaxation

[Part three]

We have been talking for these last few weeks about different ways of "meditating." We have pointed out that there are no secrets in this art. Jews and non-Jews have known of them and used them for thousands of years. A "swami" may use a mantra, a Hasidic mystic may use a specific Jewish prayer or something visual like the Torah, a psychologist may simply suggest that you "think of something that relaxes you and makes you feel good all over." Meditation has its good effects. It is not a cure-all.

There are many ways to relax. Some people relax by going to the seashore to watch the waves going in and out. Others may relax by running, swimming, playing tennis or racketball. Many people who run a great deal tell you that after a certain point they are "out of this world", their mind is clear, the worries evaporate. This is not magic, either. I get into the same state when I swim a great deal. The point is that exercise is truly helpful for us pent-up moderns. It's good for the body, good for the mind and for the soul. But it's no cure-all.

Some people use sex the way the meditators and the exercisers use their particular release. They diligently pursue diverse sexual relationships as if nirvana is to be found at the end of an orgasm. It may, indeed, be found for a fleeting few seconds, and then the search must begin again with even more desperate energy. The sex-centered lifestyle seems to bring less continuing satisfaction to its devotees than does meditation or exercise.

On the whole, I find that people who are involved in music or in the other arts are happier than people who pursue meditation and exercise with single-minded devotion. A musician is involved in so many things at once. He exercises his body as he fixes his being on the flow of the music. He participates, so to speak, in both mind and body.

#### *The yogi vs. the Prophet*

While Judaism has its mystics, its special stress is not on contemplation but on religious action. The oriental religious view has produced the yogi. Judaism has produced the activist prophet. Judaism teaches that the greatest virtue is not inward saintliness but ethical action. The whole point of praying and learning, Judaism instructs, is to motivate the person to join in with the community in its efforts to fashion a life of meaning. For the yogi, the ideal physical representation is the figure of a silent and motionless contemplator. For the Jew, the ideal physical representation is that of the loving person engaged in a group dance, celebrating the joy of togetherness.

The meditators are after inward peace, that is an important goal, but how much broader are the goals of sharing and helping and lifting up. Most systems of meditation, fashioned after the oriental, speak about the goal as being union with the divine, becoming one with the divine, becoming part of that non-being, that nexus of non-feeling, which is God. In Judaism, we speak of "becoming like God," of moving towards God, of taking into ourselves the qualities we associate with God...but the God we seek to relate with is not the passionless oriental God. He is, on the contrary, a feeling God, a God who loves and lives, a God who cares. He is the God who takes sides and stands with the poor and the outcast. To take sides, one must ultimately emerge out of the meditative period and become a combatant in the arena which is our world. In the end, it is the Jewish idea of God which is different, and this difference shapes every aspect of our religion to make it different from all the petty systems of our time devoted to more limited, self-serving goals.

I have written this series on meditation and relaxation not to suggest to those of you who use any of the popular formal disciplines that what you are doing is wrong. On the con-

# Youth News

## BAFTY Happenings

Members of Beth Am's Senior High Youth Group will have an ice cream party following the special candlelighting service on Friday, December 21.

The regional organization of Reform Youth Groups (SEFTY) will hold a convention for teens from the entire area on December 24-27 in Atlanta. Those youth groupers interested in attending should contact Rabbi Weinblatt.

This year's "D'var Torah" (sermon) topic for the national competition is, "Can one be Jewish without participating in a Jewish community?" Anyone interested in participating in sermon writing competition should contact Rabbi Weinblatt or Rabbi Baumgard.

## Menorah Contest Ends Wednesday, December 12th

Have you started your Chanukah Menorah and decided on the theme? Your personal individuality, creativity and symbolism is the greatest reward when you see the finished product. This masterpiece will be on display in our Sanctuary during Chanukah.

Many prizes have been selected. Do not miss the fun. Everyone who participates will receive an award and special prizes will be awarded for those chosen by our judges who will consider originality, beauty, symbolism (Chanukah Theme).

You may bring your menorah in as soon as it is finished. Please make sure that the following information is attached to the menorah: Name, Grade, Day in School, Rm. No. Please indicate Religious School or Day School.

## Religious School Aides Needed

The Religious School has a few openings for Teacher's Aides on Sundays. If you are interested in becoming an Aide, please contact the Religious School Office, 666-2536.

*B'Nai Mitzvah*

Saturday, December 15  
11:15 a.m.



Debbie, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Philip Perry



Karey, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Breslauer

trary, I have said these disciplines have their value, their limited value. What we need to build a happy life is a life-view. We need more than a relaxation device. We need a thought and action system with a purpose and plan that joins the present to the past and the future.

Next week, we present the final column in this series, a summary of those views that Judaism has given the world which make it unique and the life-system of the future.



# We Give Thanks...

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## LIBRARY FUND

Paul B. Barker in memory of Anna Barker  
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Barbara & Herman Pomerantz & family in memory of Al Weintraub

## NEW GENERATIONS

OLD FACES NEW NAME: M'Shorim, now known as New Generation of Temple Beth Am is the Junior High Singing Group. This year 28 seventh and eighth graders comprise the group. The eighth graders hoping for a placement in the senior group next year, THE TROUBADOURS. Both the Beth Americans and New Generation will be performing at Gusman Hall on Dec. 19th, New Generation will be singing at Snapper Creek Nursing Home January 12th and the Beth Americans at the J.C.C. on January 13th. Both groups will be performing at the Museum of Science fair in February. Also, during the month of February both groups will participate in a Friday evening service which will begin at 8:30.

## Temple Beth Am Fiscal Policy

The fiscal year of the Temple begins July 1 and ends June 30. Fair Share dues for the forthcoming year become due on July 1.

1. Registration forms for membership and Religious Schools will not be offered to members until all past due accounts are paid.

2. Not less than one-half of the dues is due on July 1. All balances are due by December 31.

3. Registration fees for Religious and Hebrew Schools are due at the time of registration.

4. Registration for nursery-kindergarten, day school, or summer camp will be honored for those members of the Temple who are current in their dues and fees.

5. Capital fund pledges are due on July 1 of the year for which you are registering.

## Sex Ethics And Jewish Tradition

Four Wednesdays in January

Rabbi Chefitz' course on Sex Ethics and the Jewish Tradition has been moved to four Wednesdays in January, beginning January 9, 8:00-10:00 PM in Room 26. The course will provide an introduction to the Jewish literary framework and then will examine all aspects of human sexuality in the light of the framework. To reserve a place, call the Temple office.

## Marriage And Alternative Life Styles: Coping With Today

A Colloquium on Four Tuesdays in January

Dr. Samuel Greenberg, author of "Neurosis is a Painful Style of Living", will conduct a colloquium on marriage and alternative life styles on four Tuesday evenings beginning January 8, 8:00 PM in Room 26. He will invite other professionals to participate in the presentation and discussion with him. The woman's movement, marital conflict, divorce, living together and living alone will be among the topics covered. Call the Temple office to reserve a place.

## Boy Scout Movement At Beth Am— Alive & Kicking!

According to Scoutmaster, Bernard Goodman, Troop No. 502, which has been reactivated this year, is off to a great start. So far the group has spent a weekend at Seminole and one at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, with the boys cooking up a storm and doing all sorts of outdoor activities. Already, more campouts are scheduled.

The boys are being encouraged to work towards earning merit badges and other advancement. Assisting the scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Lee Leshaw, are two former, particularly well-trained, scouts, Alan Richards and Phil Rizzuka, who are, in turn, help the boys achieve rank and expertise.

There is no finer way for a youngster to learn skills and leadership than through scouting. Any boy, eleven years and older, is still welcome to join. The group meets every Thursday evening at 7:15 P.M. in the Youth Lounge.

Reserve This  
Date!  
Sunday

March 23, 1980  
Gala Dinner Dance  
Intercontinental Hotel



## Cotillion Program To Begin Jan. 6th, 7:30 PM

Due to the great response by our 7th graders for Cotillion, we will begin our 2nd-10 week session. Please register now. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis. All reservations must be accompanied by a check.

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I'd like to be a parent volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

Check for \$40 accompanies registration \_\_\_\_\_

(Mail to Temple Office—Att: Cotillion)



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## Contemporaries Sponsor County-Wide GLEANERS Project—And The Bible Comes To Life!

A very exciting project is being put into motion throughout Dade County to help the elderly poor, and the inspiration for it came straight out of the Bible, (Leviticus 19/9, 10):

*"And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corner of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleaning of thy harvest. And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and for the stranger--I am the LORD your God.*

Ed and Edith Weinstein, (he is the president of our Contemporaries of Temple Beth Am), picked up on this, brought it to Delores Hagins of the Dept. of Human Resources of Dade County, who got quite excited about its possibilities. They are always looking for ways to help the indigent elderly. (Last year, the Contemporaries collected \$23,000.00 worth of food stamps which were passed on to this department and then distributed to the aforementioned).

Now, the Weinsteins, as representatives of the Contemporaries, have spearheaded a new project which can involve many people, and help to feed Dade County's hungry and needy.

The GLEANERS are those people who go into the fields after the crops are harvested, and pick up what the growers leave behind. This can be considerable in most cases. Then what is picked will be distributed to those in need. We will work hand in hand with the Dept. of Human Resources.

What we need now are volunteers, both to pick, but even more important, who can offer vehicles when needed (vans, station wagons---anything with a large capacity). BAFTY is already forming a volunteer corps of pickers.

Please call either the Weinsteins, at 271-2530, or Evelyn Goodman, 661-8458, so that we can start to build up a list to call upon.

Remember, we at Beth Am are spear-heading a community-wide program which embodies the spirit of what our religion is all about. Let's all get into the 'spirit' of it!

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## Yahrzeit

DECEMBER 14

24 KISLEV

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