



beth am **commentator**

June 8, 1979

Miami, Florida



Check Your Mail! **Your Registration Forms** **For 1979/80** **Have Been Mailed**

Temple Beth Am has mailed new registration forms for membership and our Religious and Hebrew Schools to all those congregants who are current for the 1978/79 year. It is now time to register for the coming year, with each member family assessing itself for its Fair-Share Dues.

Fair Share is a self-evaluating system with each family paying dues according to its financial ability.

Fair Share represents over 75% of the funds needed to operate the Temple next year. The success of our Fair-Share program depends upon your attitude, your emotion and your integrity. Congregants should remember that Temple Beth Am cannot survive on minimum Fair-Share alone. We have many members who cannot afford even a small part of the minimum dues. It is only through the generosity of those who truly believe in Fair-Share that we can preserve Beth Am as we know it.

Facts You Should Know **About Our Budget** **Annual Operating Costs**

(Anticipated for 1979-80)

\$986,000

This Means

(Based on a Membership of 1,600 Families)

Operating Cost per Family: \$616.00

Minimum Fair Share Dues: \$525.00

Cost per Religious School Student: \$145.00

Your Tuition Fee: \$65.00

Cost per Hebrew School Student: \$143.00

Your Tuition Fee: \$50.00

Cost of Youth Activities: \$24,500

Your Youth Activities Fee: \$0.00

These Facts Speak For Themselves

Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard

**"MAY THE LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU . . .
DOES GOD STILL BLESS US PERSONALLY?"**

Friday, June 8, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Saturday, June 9, 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

Outstanding Confirmands Win Awards

At Confirmation services on Sunday, June 3rd, the following young people won special awards. Congratulations to these outstanding students: Erwin Lesser Award for Outstanding Confirmand was won by Linda Finkelstein, daughter of Arthur and Marilyn Finkelstein; the Mark Light Award for Outstanding Service to Temple Beth Am was won by Andrew H. Blass, son of Stephen and Sandy Blass and Charles and Susan Rosenberg; the Aaron Salem Award for Creative Arts was won by Lillian Golden, daughter of Dr. Howard and Sheila Golden. The Jeremiah Confirmation Award for Achievement in Jewish Studies was won by Debra Matell, daughter of Robin and Ann Matell, and Charles Kaiser, son of Dr. Gerald and Joyce Kaiser. Those receiving Honorable Mention in the field of Jewish Studies were Ronald Albert, Jr., Lillian Golden, Jeffrey Kallan, Stephanie Schwartz, and Patti Simon.



Linda
Finkelstein

Andy
Blass

Lily
Golden

Debra
Matell

Charles
Kaiser

Day School Graduating Class

On June 9 a Havdallah Dinner Service will be held in honor of the Day School graduating class of 1979. This dinner service will be conducted by the graduates and will be attended by families of the Day School.

Each year's graduating class has a distinctive feature. This is the first class to have students who started in our Day School at three years of age. We have had the privilege to work with some of our students for nine years!! Temple Beth Am extends a mazel tov to the graduates and their proud families.

Mrs. Kesselman
Mrs. Weinfeld

Robin Bloom
Jodi Goodman
Fred Karlinsky
Elizabeth Levinson
Andrew Reisman
Lee Sobel
Michelle Weiner

Mrs. Stratton
Mrs. Kuperstein

Jeffrey Bonilla
Stacey Deutsch
Amy Freedman
Mark Hoffman
Debra Kline
Jeffrey Lipman
Charles Marlin
Rachelle Perl
Michelle Pozen
Adam Stuart
Jonathan Zwibel

Mrs. Tifford
Mrs. Reisman

David Cole
Laura Goldberg
Marc Hochberg
Elizabeth Lapidus
Angela Miot
Michael Satenberg
Liz Snider
Julie Steele

Mrs. Zucker
Mrs. Langer

Danny Charles
Vicki Cohen
Scott Davis
Lisa Drucker
Laurence Gaines
Robin Goldberg
Jeffrey Hellinger
Samuel Lewis
Bruce Mesnekoff
Firth Spiegel
Debra Tower
Debbie Berkowitz



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

"THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK"

Mohammed admired the Jews because they were singularly "the people of the book". Jews have written not only the Bible but the Midrash (a collection of stories and commentaries on the Bible), the Talmud (a law code applying the laws of the Bible to later generations), and an endless number of other books on a thousand subjects. In modern times, it is estimated that the Jews who are 5% of the population in America buy 40% of the new books sold at bookstores.

Nonetheless, many modern Jews remain blissfully ignorant of Judaism and are unaware of the rich treasures to be found in modern books written about our religion and our people. Perhaps you would like not to be amongst these ignorant Jews. In that case, you will be interested in some books I would like to recommend to you.

I think every Reform Jewish home should have a new book just issued by the Central Conference of American Rabbis. It is entitled, "*Gates of Mitzvah - A Guide to the Jewish Life Cycle*". The book may be ordered through our Judaica Shop. (Just send a card to the Shop, c/o the Temple, with your name, address, and phone number. The book costs \$8.95.) The book describes Reform Jewish religious practice from birth to death. Some of the topics include Birth, Naming the Child, Conversion, the Marriage Ceremony, Divorce and Remarriage, Mixed Marriage, The Mourning Period, etc. The Rabbi shouldn't be the only one who knows the Reform position on these matters. Now is your chance to get in the know.*

The C.C.A.R. has also published a book called, "*A Shabbat Manual*", which gives a modern basis for observing the Sabbath. The manual contains songs and music for the Sabbath, a listing of Torah readings which you can follow at home each Saturday, answers to questions about Sabbath observance, and some excellent statements on the nature of the Sabbath. This also can be ordered from the Judaica Shop for only a few dollars.*

"*Liberal Judaism at Home*", by Rabbi Morrison Bial, published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, describes home observances in a very simple manner.

Dr. Harry Orlinsky, our genial friend, who happens to be the world's foremost Bible scholar, has written a book on the Bible, "*Understanding The Bible Through History and Archaeology*", published by KTAV. The book has a narrative interpreting Biblical times accompanied by selected texts from the Bible and information from archaeological sources.

Abraham Sachar's, "*History of the Jews*" is still the most readable of all histories of our people. Milton Steinberg's, "*Basic Judaism*", published by Harcourt, Brace, is probably the simplest and ablest outline of traditional Judaism. If you want to know the contribution of the Jews in relation to other great civilizations of the ancient Near East, get "*The Intellectual Adventures of Ancient Man*" by Frankfort and others (exciting!)

If you have any musical capability at all, you'll want to have in your library, "*The Songs We Sing*", Harry Coopersmith, published by the United Synagogue Commission on Education.

These books make a nice beginning for a modern Jewish classics which you hopefull have. After all, we Jews don't want to lose the title, "People of the Book".

*I was privileged to be on the committee that produced these books and to share in the writing.

A Summer Place

Beth Am's

Summer Program

Starts, Monday June 18th



Register for Hebrew School in Fourth Grade School Board Reminds Parents of Time Factor

If you are registering your child for the Beth Am Bar/Bat Mitzvah program, he/she should properly be registered for both the Hebrew and weekend school as a fourth grader. This gives the child time to complete the minimum requirement of three complete years in the Hebrew School so that he can then enter the B'nai Mitzvah Society (Hevrah) which is for students in the 7th grade who will be called to the Torah as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

It is the goal of the School Board that all students entering the 7th grade Hevrah will have already completed the basic requirements of three years in the Hebrew School program. The seventh graders can then concentrate on their special program, part of which includes preparation for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony.

This year (1979/80) our Rabbis will closely supervise the 7th grade children who will be participating in an enriched program which will also have social aspects. The organization of the 7th grade Hevrah is being taken to make the exposure of the seventh graders more uniform. All 7th graders will participate in joint activities on Monday afternoons but will be split up into various levels of Hebrew performance on Wednesday afternoons. Their Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation, as well as other special programming for them, will take place on Monday afternoons.

The School Board reminds all parents that any child registered in the school, whether his Bar Mitzvah ceremony occurs in the 7th grade or not, **MUST COMPLETE THAT YEAR** in the Hebrew School. Parents are also reminded that all of those children accepted for Bar Mitzvah are committed to the completion of **at least** the 8th grade in the weekend Religious School. (Almost all of our students go on to Confirmation at the end of the 10th grade of Religious School.) Parents who permit their child to quit either Hebrew School before the 7th grade is fully completed or the Religious School before the 8th grade is fully completed are violating a pledge they are required to sign when the child is accepted in the Bar Mitzvah program.

Congregation Breakfast Awards Distributed

Donald Klein, Brotherhood Past President, was a recipient of the Howard Stapleton award.

Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz, speaker at the last breakfast, was given the Certificate of honor Award for complete dedication and service to Brotherhood at all times.

Other workers for Brotherhood who were honored include Ben Clein, Ralph Cohen, Art Conn, Ted Deutsch, Ben Friedman, Leo Gelber, Don Klein, Al Pobby, Ira Pozen and Mike Weisberg. Outgoing President Bob Fried made the presentations of the awards.

Brotherhood looks forward to the resumption of the Congregational Breakfasts in September, and hopes that all who enjoyed them in 1978-79, will participate in 1979-80.

It's Time To Register For Membership

B'nai Mitzvah



Friday, June 8

8:30 p.m.

Tracy, daughter of
Mr. Martin Gallant

Kira, daughter of
Mrs. Barbara Pales
and
Mr. Marvin Pales



Saturday, June 9

9:15 a.m.

Andrew, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Herman

Mary Beth Feldman, daughter of
Mrs. Nancy Green
and
Mr. Bennett Feldman

