



beth am commentator

May 11, 1979

Miami, Florida

Rabbi Herbert Baumgard
"BETH AM AFTER 24 YEARS"

Friday, May 11, 1979, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE
Saturday, May 12, 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

Dr. William Silver Elected to Serve as President For 1979-80



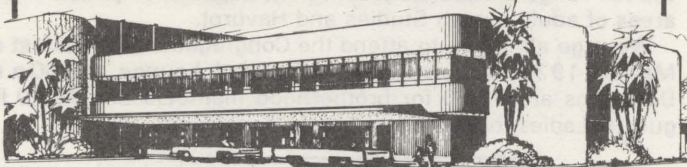
At the annual congregation meeting April 30, 1979, William E. Silver was elected to serve as President for the 1979-80 fiscal year. Bill takes over the reins at Beth Am after a long history of involvement.

Bill is a native of Boston and received his undergraduate degree at Tufts University. He graduated N.Y.U. Dental School and did his post graduate work in orthodontics at Columbia University. Returning to Boston after serving in the U.S. Air Force, he practiced dentistry and taught at Harvard University.

He has served as Chairman of our Social Action Committee, Youth Committee, Fair-Share, as a member of the Finance Committee, as Temple Treasurer and Executive Vice President. His community involvement is varied. Bill heads the dental department at Variety Children's Hospital, and is a member of the Coral Gables Planning Board. He has been active in many C.J.A. campaigns and finds time to serve all ventures. We look forward to an exciting year with Bill at the helm.

Guardian Of Beth Am

Alan and Jo Ann Lederman



Re-registration Forms To Be Sent June 1

In about four weeks, we will be mailing membership registration forms for the fiscal year 1977-78. The membership registration and Religious and Hebrew School registration forms have been incorporated into one form.

Temple fiscal policy will not allow us to mail forms for new registration to members in arrears on their current year's fees or pledges. Everyone owing monies to the Temple has received a statement. The last statement before our re-registration on June 1 is in the mail. Watch for this last statement if you have a past due balance.

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.

Installation Dinner Friday, May 11, 6:15 P.M. BROTHERHOOD, SISTERHOOD, AND TEMPLE OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS TO BE INSTALLED AT SHABBAT DINNER BY RABBI BAUMGARD

On Friday, May 11, the newly elected officers and board members of our Temple, our Brotherhood, and our Sisterhood will be installed at a Shabbat Dinner (catered by Masterhost), to be held in our Social Hall, starting at 6:15 p.m.

The officers to be installed are listed below. Space does not allow the listing of board members at this time.

TEMPLE OFFICERS:

Dr. William Silver	President
Alfred Liebert	Executive Vice President
Iris Franco	Vice President
Barry Goldstein	Vice President
Marshall Langer	Vice President
Marcia Reisman	Vice President
Dr. Gilbert Snyder	Vice President
Les Freedman	Financial Secretary
Herb Neuman	Treasurer
Ruth Leshaw	Corresponding Secretary
Florence Birchansky	Recording Secretary

BROTHERHOOD OFFICERS:

Abe Eisenman	President
Ben Friedman	Ex. Vice President
Col. Arthur Conn	Vice President
Jack Orkin	Vice President
Al Pobby	Vice President
Ralph Cohen	Treasurer
Ted Deutch	Secretary
Bob Fried	Parliamentarian

SISTERHOOD OFFICERS:

Selma Rappaport	President
Claudia Dessler	Exec. Vice President
Brenda Feinberg	Recording Secretary
Betty Friedman	Corres. Secretary
Trudy Selevan	Treasurer

LAST CALL

**Shabbot Dinner May 11th Honors
Newly Elected Officers of Temple**

CONGREGATIONAL-INSTALLATION DINNER RESERVATION FORM

(Mail or bring to the Temple office)

Please make a total of _____ reservations for us at \$9.00 per person.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Enclosed find a check for \$ _____

A LONG WAY FROM MY LITTLE SYNAGOGUE

On the Holidays my family attended the "Great" Orthodox Synagogue in Norfolk, Va., but I was more familiar with the smaller synagogues around town which I attended more frequently. My Bar Mitzvah ceremony took place in one of these small "steebles".

In Norfolk, the major congregations were Conservative and Reform, but my contact with the latter was rare. The "rich" Jews belonged there and the Rabbi, while a brilliant preacher, was anti-Zionist. As I grew older, I attended the Conservative congregation more, although I found it made precious few adjustments to the demands of the young people. I decided that what Norfolk needed was a congregation offering a philosophy of Judaism and programming somewhat between that offered by Conservative and Reform congregations of that time.

While the Conservative congregation offered more programming, its activities were largely centered around the worship services. The Orthodox congregations offered nothing but religious services. By and large, the congregations in Norfolk, at that time, fulfilled one function of a synagogue, that of the bet ha-t'filah (the house of prayer). Some few of them also had religious schools, fulfilling the function of bet ha-midrash (house of study). The third function was substantially ignored (bet ha-k'neset, house of assembly for the people).

It is a long way from my little synagogue to Beth Am. Not only is there a gap in the development of the generations (the synagogues of 40 years ago were still dominated by European custom and thought), but there is a vast difference in the understanding of what a synagogue was intended to do and can do. What might be called the non-religious (specifically) or the social aspect of human and Jewish need is the area in which Beth Am does such a tremendous job. To be sure, we still have a good concentration on religious services (very well attended, thank you) and on religious schools (highly thought of around the country), but we have also tried to meet the special needs of our generation which are a by-product of the breakdown of the structure of our society. The synagogue of 40 years ago didn't attempt to deal with the problems of divorce and singles and mental health. Nor did the synagogue of yesterday make an attempt to develop attractive Adult Education programs for those Jews who did not already have some expertise in the Hebrew language.

The synagogue in the America of 40 years ago didn't have Sunday morning breakfasts with discussions on current political themes, nor did it arrange blood bank drives or build a basketball gym, or set up a Library with 7,000 volumes, or arrange study retreats for young and old, or offer its Rabbi to the Community Relations Board, or establish havurot (multiple family groups for study and observance), or hire youth group specialists, etc.

All of these things are products of synagogue development in our generation, and Beth Am is the creative edge of these developments. Now in its 24th year, Beth Am has become, unmistakably, one of the premier congregations in America in terms of its programming and activities. What is a synagogue? That definition is limited only by the vision and dedication of a synagogue's members. There is a vast difference between one synagogue and another, even in our own time. If you think Beth Am is like any other congregation, you are mistaken.

All of us owe a debt of gratitude to those officers and workers of our Temple who have done so much to bring it to this point. Our well wishes go forth to incoming President Dr. William Silver and his corps of officers who will be installed this week. They are deserving of and need your help if Beth Am is to maintain its high standard of excellence. (If you'd like to help, call Bill at the Temple or drop him a card. Workers have never been more needed).

Sisterhood's Mother's Day Luncheon, May 23

Come and bring your mother to our lovely closing Sisterhood "Mother's Day Luncheon." May 23 at 10:30 a.m. Donation will be \$3.50. The program will be led by our own Joan Schwartzman.

P.A.T.I.O. Installation Meeting May 16th

On Wednesday, May 16th at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge all Pre-School and Day School parents are urged to attend the P.A.T.I.O. (parent and teacher involvement organization) installation meeting.

Please come and meet your new officers and help plan our program for the forthcoming year.

"The Past Year in Retrospect" At May 20 Congregational Breakfast

The "anchorman" of our most successful Congregational Breakfast Series is our own Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz. On May 20, after enjoying our usual sumptuous breakfast, the good Rabbi will give us his considered opinion on the year just past to include Temple affairs, as well as local, National, and International events.

It is his interesting background that qualifies Rabbi Chefitz to make this assessment. Educated in Boston (MIT), and California (University of California at Berkeley) in both the humanities and science, he served with the U.S. Navy in combat intelligence during the Vietnam conflict and in the Mediterranean during the Six Day War.

Rabbi Chefitz continued his education in Israel where he met his wife and at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in both Jerusalem and New York, receiving his M.A.H.L. in 1973. He was ordained in 1975. After serving as a spiritual leader in Rhode Island and Connecticut, he came to Temple Beth Am in 1975 as Associate Rabbi with responsibilities that cover the full range of rabbinic practice with special emphasis in the areas of adult Jewish Studies and Havurot.

We urge all of you to attend the Congregational Breakfast on May 20, 1979, held, as usual, in the Youth Lounge, at 9:30 a.m. Donations are \$1.50 for brotherhood members and \$2.00 for guests. Ladies, of course, are always welcome.

YOUNG SINGLES (20-35)

Disco Dance

Sunday, May 20th

See next weeks Commentator for details

B'Nai Mitzvah Saturday, May 12, 1979



9:15 a.m.

Adam, son of
Mr. Daniel Bricker

Craig, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Shere

11:15 a.m.

David, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gold

Stefanie, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Malin