



beth am commentator

May 18, 1979

Miami, Florida

Rabbi Herbert Baumgard
 "MAKING YOUR HOME JEWISH"
 Friday, May 18, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE
 Saturday, May 19, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

Disco

CALLING ALL YOUNG SINGLES
 (20-35 YEARS ONLY)

**TEMPLE BETH AM
 SOCIAL HALL
 SUNDAY, MAY 20TH
 8:30 P.M.
 FREE ADMISSION
 BRING YOUR FRIENDS**



Rabbi Baumgard Completes College Trip

Rabbi Baumgard has just completed his swing of colleges in the State of Florida. Visited were the campuses of the University of Florida (Gainesville), Florida State University (Tallahassee), and University of South Florida (Tampa). Brunch and dinner were held in Gainesville and dinner at both F.S.U. and U.S.F. Funds for these trips came from a branch of the Rabbi's Fund which we call the Collegian Fund. A discussion on Jewish and current matters are always a part of these meetings.

Among the students attending the recent meetings were: Sarah Alpert, Alva Joseph, Craig Saper, Robin Pomerantz, Karen Bender, Rosalyn Cuba, Audrey Rosen, Mark Siegel, Jan Rosenberg, Pam Abelson, Steven Siegel, Neil Berman, Terrie Katz, Bryan Katz, Stephen Mack, Warren Trazenfeld, Mike Cuba, Sheryl Grossman, Vicki Cook, Joel Cantor, Brian Firtell, Aline Rosenzweig, Elizabeth Schild, Steven Schwartzman, Hildy Edelman, Barri Cohen, Sherry Birchansky, Pam Cohen, Staci Abbott.

Students at other colleges whose names have been sent to the Rabbi's office will receive our mailing of special materials within a few days. If we don't have your youngster's name and address, get it in to us immediately.

Rabbi Baumgard visits those colleges where a sufficient number of students attend, provided that our office receives the names and addresses.

Our usual trip to Boston has been postponed because so few students have indicated they would attend our annual dinner.



The Committee of 100

"Committee of 100" Seeks Members

In a special appeal to members the past several weeks, nineteen new families have volunteered to join "The Committee of 100" for the fiscal year which starts on July 1, 1979.

All members of the congregation should thank these families, whose names are printed below, since it is only by contributions like this that our budget ends up in balance. There is no limit to the number of families needed for this committee. All are welcome. Can you join?

Anonymous

Herman Aibel

Dr. Donald and Linda Altman

Max and Peggy Brown

Dr. Edward and Helene Cutler

Murray and Helene Dubbin

Dr. Lawrence and Suzanne Fishman

Dr. David and Linda Frankel

Leslie and Terry Freedman

Stanton and Elaine Freedman

Lewis and Norma Goodman

Phil and Mickey Kaplan

Richard and Margaret Kronenberg

Ronald and Harriet Molko

Michael and Ruth Neijna

Dr. Ian and Jodi Reiss

Dr. M. William and Francine Ross

Charles and Mary Ruffner

Dr. George and Iris Salzberg

Budget for 1979/80 Shows Large Increase

At their May meeting, the Board of Directors of Temple Beth Am will be wrestling with a budget of almost a million dollars. This represents a significant increase over the budget for the current year. Most of the increase results from the normal costs of living and the inflationary pressures of our economy. As a result of the increased budgetary needs, the Board has increased our Fair-Share Dues structure as spelled out in the Commentator of May 4th.

Registration forms for membership and for our Religious and Hebrew Schools will be sent to all members in good standing on or about June 1st. This is the one time during the year when Temple members are called upon to make their commitment to the Temple in the form of their Fair-Share Dues.

It is understood that some families in difficult financial straits will be unable to meet the "minimum dues". The office of the Executive Director is prepared to be helpful in these situations. Beth Am takes in members irrespective of their ability to pay. If we are to continue to help our divorcees, our widows, our newlyweds, our older members, and those facing financial reverses, we need financial help from those more fortunate.

It should be a source of satisfaction to you to know that by your Fair-Share contribution you are helping to fulfill spiritual needs of your fellow congregants, furthering the needs of the local Jewish community and helping in the survival of Judaism.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

WHY SHOULD THE JEWS SURVIVE AS A PEOPLE?

If there is anything the average, modern Jewish teenager does not want to accept, it is the fact that the Jew is different from other people. Some adults, also, driven by the same kind of emotional needs that help to motivate the teenager, want desperately to believe that in every respect they are no different from the non-Jew around them. This belief is based on a desire to be accepted by the majority group, a desire which we all share in part. It may also be based on the fear of persecution for being different, a fear that we can all understand.

The sociological facts, however, support the conclusion that Jews, as a group, are different from non-Jewish groups, not in all respects, to be sure, but in some very significant respects. And individual Jews tend to be different from non-Jewish individuals for subtle and complex reasons. Even the fanatic desire on the part of some Jews to lose their Jewish coloration and to become identical with the prevailing majority makes them DIFFERENT from the majority, for no member of the relaxed majority struggles as hard as this individual Jew to be LIKE THE AVERAGE. The very INTENSITY of this Jew reveals the fact that he is a member of a minority group struggling to be accepted by the "in" group. This, too, is understandable.

So, let us admit something about ourselves. However you may strive to be like the "others," you cannot be like them if you know that six million of your people were killed by a modern nation short decades ago. However we may dress like the "others," or use the accepted hair-dos, or drink the popular brands of liquor, or dance the vogue dances, we still react sharply when the newspaper headlines inform us that Syrian invaders tried to blow up an Israeli water line. However relaxed we may be at the office Christmas party, we are suddenly removed from the group when the Christmas carols begin and someone says joyously, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

HOW 'DIFFERENT'?

Some Jews are different for positive reasons. That is, they believe that God is one and not three. They believe that God is in all men and that he didn't come to fruition just in the man, Jesus. They believe that the Jewish people have a role to play in human history of helping to lead man to the "messianic day" of brotherhood. They believe that the experience of wandering and suffering of the Jews has helped to prepare them ESPECIALLY for the role of objective critic and the liberal vanguard. Some Jews, while believing in the equality of all men, nonetheless, believe that the Jewish people are particularly well equipped to serve as the "yeast in the dough," the planter of the seed.

Other Jews are not blessed with this positive orientation towards Judaism. They either are ignorant of its specific content or they have the emotional need to be blind to it. Still, they cannot escape their being different, even if this difference leads them to compulsive imitation of the fads of the majority. How much healthier it would be for all Jews, if they could accept their Jewishness and apply their energies to the positive values of the Jewish group. How much happier they would be, and how much more effective would be our voice in the community!

"Ideas Through Books" Last Meeting

As is our custom, our final meeting of the year is a bring-a-dish luncheon. This year, Sofia Markovich has kindly offered to be the hostess. Whip up a batch of your favorite recipe and bring it in a serving dish. We will eat your delicacies and chew the fat and talk over last year and next year.

DATE: Thursday, May 31st, at 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: Home of Sofia Markovich, 11340 S.W. 72 Avenue, 223-0665.

If you can, call Sofia and let her know you are coming.

Rabbi Chefitz Views the Past Year At Breakfast, May 20

To review the year briefly, we had a "packed house" for our timely debate on Casino Gambling. On the other hand, our debate on Nuclear Energy, equally timed, did not draw. Our portrayal of Judaism in Action—the dining program for the needy and the elderly on Miami Beach as well as the changing picture of cultural activities in Greater Miami did now draw. The debates on the use of TV cameras in our courts and on National Health Insurance were well received.

If we could get all who attended those breakfasts to come again at the same time, a crowd of over 300 persons is possible.

That opportunity comes on May 20, 1979, when our own Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz speaks to us at our last Congregational Breakfast for this season. His subject, the Past Year in Retrospect is a challenging one, and will provide a thoughtful, humorous presentation for our consideration.

The time, again is May 20, 1979, the place our Youth Lounge. Breakfast will begin at 9:30 AM. Donations are \$1.50 for members of Brotherhood and \$2.00 for guests. Ladies are more than welcome.

JOAN'S GEMS By Joan Schwartzman

Kudos to Michael, son of Dr. Bill and Marcia Silver who has been accepted to Columbia University in the fall ... Congratulations to the Beth Am Troubadours who have won second place in the Strike Up The Band contest from the Ponce de Leon Development Association. This group of young singers is lead by Harriet Potlock and will receive their award at a special presentation in April ... We are proud to announce that Nolan, son of Ruth Altman and Don Altman will graduate the University of Miami Medical School in June and will intern at Jackson Memorial Hospital ... Mazel Tov to Barbara and Howard Katzen upon the engagement of their daughter Lynn to Robert Wilensky, son of Bea and Herb Wilensky. The young couple met each other while attending school in Israel and plan a fall wedding ... We congratulate Louise Stubins who has been elected Greater Miami section president of the National Council of Jewish Woman and Nan Rich who was elected section Vice President of Public Affairs ... Read recently in the Herald about some more Beth Amites who have been nominated for the Silver Knight Awards. If I missed anyone, please let me know. I want to share this good news. The nominees include: Larry, son of Helen and Jerold Schwarz in the field of Journalism at Palmetto High; Don, son of Bob and Meryl Baker in the field of Business Education at Palmetto High; Sherri Wolfgang, daughter of Diane Lichtman in the field of Art at Killian High ... Mazel to all!

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.

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, May 19
11:15 a.m.



Stephen, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Rochkind

Cheryl, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Russo