



RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, November 23, 1979, 8:30 p.m.

RABBI MITCHELL CHEFITZ
"THE NEW JUDAISM: SADUCEES AND
PHARISEES ALL OVER AGAIN"

TORAH SERVICE Saturday, November 24, 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

November 23, 1979

Miami, Florida

Common Cause And Helplessness

Selma Rappaport, Sisterhood's President, has invited Mr. Pat Riley to speak about COMMON CAUSE and how it operates to help citizens to take an effective part in government. People who at one time felt helpless to do anything about what was happening around them in the political arena soon learned to become quite adept at responding with positive action with the help of COMMON CAUSE. Plan now to attend on Wednesday, November 28th at 8:00 P.M. in the Social Hall. \$1.00 admission includes coffee and dessert. R.S.V.P.: Temple Office—667-5587.

Former Knesset Member Speaks At Temple Judea, Sunday, Dec. 2nd At 3:30 P.M.

On Sunday, December 2nd, at 3:00 p.m., Temple Judea will host Mr. Nissim Elaid, a former member of the Knesset and currently the Chairperson of the Israel Reform movement. His talk will be of particular interest to A.R.Z.A. members and to those concerned with Israel and its relationship to the Reform movement.

Blood Drive Report

Beth Am's Blood Drive was a greater success than ever. A record 155 pints were collected in a quick moving, efficient manner. A party mood prevailed, with pleasant socializing and Brotherhood's good food. The men in the kitchen were great, as were the hostesses who guided the donors. We give special thanks to the many women on the Telephone Squad, without whom none of this would have been possible. Our congratulations to Doreen Marx, the Chairman of the Blood Donor Drive, who coordinated so masterfully.

Most important, some very sick people received fresh, clean blood. Our congregants really understood the term "Blood Medicine", and we thank them gratefully.

—Diana Elson, Patient Representative

Young Singles To Sponsor Outing

Beth Am's Young Singles next big event is a barbeque at Tropical Park on Sunday, December 9 beginning at 2 p.m. Reserve this date now for what promises to be another successful event.

Hebrew School Teacher Needed

We have an opening in our Hebrew school for another Hebrew teacher. Anyone interested should apply to Rabbi Weinblatt.

Judaic Artifacts Needed For Exhibit

The Fine Arts Committee of Temple Beth Am announces an exhibit of Judaic objects and turn of the century antiques and artifacts on May 1, 1980. The objects exhibited will be from the collections of our Temple members. This will be an exciting event if we share our heirlooms and heritage with one another. The objects will be exhibited in locked showcases, and we will provide security and insurance.

We are interested in the following items:

Menorahs	Photographs
Kiddush Cups	Spice Boxes
Mezuzahs	Candelabra
Passover Plates	Samovars
Temple Ceremonial	Cooking Utensils used
Objects; Torah Covers	in Jewish home
Tallis - Talleisim	Linens - tablecloths,
Yarmulkas	draperies, challah cover
Family Bibles and/or	Clothing - wedding gowns,
Books such as Siturs	shawls
Ketubahs	Jewelry
	Furniture

Other items you might have

If you are interested in exhibiting any of the above articles, or if you would like to serve on the committee, please contact us as soon as possible. Nancy Greenberg at 667-1324, Cynthia Lewis at 595-6306, or Loretta Siegel at 235-0873.

Brownie Troop Flourishing At Beth Am

Under the leadership of Alyson Palau, Brownie Leader, and Ellen Barusch, Assistant Leader, Brownie Troop 492, is very active at Beth Am this year. The troop, which started last year, was joined by many youngsters last week at their investiture. The troop is made up of the following Beth Amites:

Melissa Abrams	Ali Hodin
Kristi Barusch	Hillary Kahn
Tara Breslin	Wendy Levine
Rachel Carson	Janine Lee
Jennifer Cohen	Rebecca Martinelli
Stacey Cohen	Laurie Moret
Jennifer Colodney	Terra Palau
Gisele Colbert	Amy Pearl
Cara English	Valerie Rice
Lisa Feinstein	Michelle Schneider
Pamela Friedman	Debra Schrier
Lauren Gnaizda	Jill Silverberg
Stacey Goodman	Michelle Weiss
Leslie Grappell	Marla Wolf
Joui Hessel	Amy Zwibel
Lisa Falowitz	



FROM THE RABBIS STUDY

THE DEEPER MEANING OF BEING A JEW

Abraham was not born of Jewish parents. What made him a Jew was the simple fact that he entered into a covenant (a contract, brit) with God. The Bible tells us that God promised Abraham the land of Canaan (Israel) and agreed to watch over Abraham. Abraham, for his part, promised to "walk in God's ways" (i.e., to follow God's laws) and to be a "blessing" to other nations (i.e., to mediate God's teachings to others).

A thousand years later, the Prophet Amos emphasizes the fact that God chose Israel (through Abraham) to be His "special treasure", but this did not mean Israel would receive special rewards. On the contrary, being chosen implied extra responsibility in following God's law closely, "For you only have I known intimately amongst the nations."

Moses tells us, in the Book of Leviticus, that God wants us to imitate Him in His holiness, i.e., to strive to be like Him with respect to His concern for the poor and disenfranchised. Much of the Torah (the first five Books of the Bible) gives us detailed laws requiring the Israelites to act in this noble and charitable fashion.

If we are to understand how the Jews have survived for 4,000 years and why they refused to convert to the often exotic majority religions of the nations in which they lived, we must know that they considered themselves to have a precious mission. They deeply believed that as God's chosen, they had a special responsibility not to melt into "the nations, ha-goyim". They believed it important to God that they maintain their religion undiluted by pagan and non-Jewish religions. Accordingly, they refused to adopt the customs of the peoples around them, however attractive and rewarding and pleasurable they were. They steadfastly maintained their own customs and ethical standards and view of man's purpose in the world.

One wonders how many Jews today are mindful of the deeper meaning of being a Jew. One wonders how many modern Jews understand that they are under the divine command to try to be "like God" and to be a "blessing" to those about them.

Surely ours is a heritage which does not permit us to imitate those who live by commonly accepted standards of morality. To the extent that we do so we cease to be Jews, and we betray the generations of Jews who suffered tragically but heroically before us.

"Ideas Through Books" Meeting Notice

- BOOK:** "The World According to Garp" by John Irving. It is available in paperback.
- REVIEWER:** Rita Deutch (Doctoral candidate at U. Miami)
- DATE:** Thursday, December 6th.
Morning Group Meets at 9:30 a.m.
Evening Group meets at 8:00 p.m.
(Coffee first, review 1/2 hour later)
- PLACE:** **MORNING:** Home of Sandra and Judge Norman Share, 12900 S.W. 74th Court R.S.V.P. 233-0371 (or Gail at the Temple)
EVENING: Home of Barbara and Ed Raduns 7301 S.W. 110 Terrace R.S.V.P. 667-7923 (or Gail at the Temple)

Youth News

With this week's issue of the Commentator, we inaugurate a new column which will be devoted exclusively to covering the many activities of our various Youth Groups.

Parents and children should refer regularly to this space to find out about upcoming programs. Beth Am has an Eighth Youth group, a Ninth Grade Youth Group, and a Senior High Group, BAFTY. For information about joining any of these groups, call Rabbi Weinblatt or Sandy Goldstein at the Temple.

Ninth Grade Youth To Meet

The ninth grade youth group will have a dinner prior to Monday night school on November 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. An exciting program will follow the dinner.

Joan's Jems By Joan Schwartzman

We hear tell that Elijah Powell, a cadet at the Air Force Academy, is a member of the Jewish Choir. This choir has presented concerts all over the United States. Elijah is the son of Elisha and Barbara Powell. . . Mazel to Joan Malin and Judy Wexler upon their new business venture. . . Our own Librarian, Margot Berman will attend the Washington White House Conference on Libraries. She is representing the Association of Jewish Libraries. . . Many thanks to Evelyn Goodman and the Cultural Committee headed by our Edie Spiegel for a fabulous concert presented by the American Balalaika Company of P.A.C.E. It was truly an evening of Joy and a wonderful way to begin our celebration of Beth Am's 25th Anniversary. . . Beth Am's Judaica shop will be open on Sunday mornings from 11 a.m. to 12 noon for your shopping pleasure. Chanukah begins December 15th. Do your purchasing and support our Sisterhood at the same time. . .

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, November 24th



Roy, son of Mr. & Mrs. Albert Weinfeld



Stacey, Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipton

9:15 a.m.



Randy, son of Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Satarsky



Richard, son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jackson

11:15 a.m.