



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

**RABBI PAUL STEINBERG**  
"BUILDING FOR TOMORROW"

**TORAH SERVICE**, Saturday, December 1st, 1979, 11:15 a.m.

# Beth Am Commentator

November 30, 1979

Miami, Florida

## Chanukah Menorah Contest Starting All Member Families Asked To Participate

A tradition at Beth Am is being expanded and improved this year. Each Temple family is encouraged to create their own menorah for the holiday of Chanukah. What better way for the whole family to get involved in the fun and excitement! This will truly be a family enterprise.

Use your imagination, build your magnum opus, let your artistic genius show through, be daring and delicious. Entries will be judged by experts on the basis of originality, symbolism and beauty. Fantastic prizes will be offered for winning families in several categories. Every family that enters will receive an award of appreciation.

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 12th. THEY WILL BE ON DISPLAY FOR CHANUKAH.**

## January "Sex Ethics" Course Switched To Wednesday Nights

Rabbi Chofitz will offer "SEX ETHICS AND THE JEWISH TRADITION" on four Wednesday evenings in January, beginning on Wednesday, January 9, instead of on Tuesdays as previously reported. The course will provide an introduction to the Jewish literary framework and then will examine all aspects of human sexuality in the light of that framework. This course is recommended for those just beginning serious Jewish study as well as more advanced students. To reserve a place, call the Temple office. The class will meet in Room 26 from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m..

## Contemporaries Meet Sunday, December 2

The Contemporaries will meet on Sunday, December 2nd, at 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. This will be our annual pot-luck luncheon. Musical entertainment will be provided by Mike Hellinger of BAFTY.

## A Great Meeting On November 28

Sisterhood's Evening Meeting on Wednesday, November 28th at 8:00 p.m. is going to give everybody an opportunity to attend a most interesting and informative program. Mr. Pat Riley, from COMMON CAUSE will be the guest speaker. He will share many unknown facts with us - facts about COMMON CAUSE - facts about how we as individuals can adopt a more influential role in our government, etc. Sisterhood President Selma Rappaport and her committee will be looking forward to greeting you in the Social Hall for what promises to be a very worthwhile program, coffee and dessert. Admission: \$1.00. Please RSVP: Temple Office - 667-5587.

## Dr. Paul Steinberg Speaks At Beth Am Friday, November 30th At 8:30 P.M.



The Dean of the New York School of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Rabbi Dr. Paul Steinberg, will speak at Temple Beth Am on Friday evening, November 30th, at 8:30 p.m. Dr. Steinberg, whose special fields of scholarship are education and human relations will speak on the theme, "BUILDING FOR TOMORROW".

Dr. Steinberg last spoke at Beth Am five years ago on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Rabbi Baumgard at Beth Am. Amongst his duties is the supervision of the summer archaeological program of the H.U.C.-J.I.R. in Israel.

## Chanukah Festival Here On December 14th Rabbi Weinblatt To Be Installed

Our annual Chanukah Festival will take place at the Friday evening service of December 14th. As part of the observance of Chanukah, which begins that evening, Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt will be officially installed as an Associate Rabbi of Beth Am.

Chanukah marks the anniversary of the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in 186 B.C.E. after the Syrian conquerors had been driven out, and the music and events associated with our service will be integrated into that theme. Beautiful but rarely heard music of Chanukah will be sung by the choir from the altar. Those who have heard the Choir in this kind of concert from the altar have noted that the music seems all the more dramatic.

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.

## Colloquium On Marriage And Divorce Being Prepared For Tuesdays In January

Dr. Samuel Greenberg and others from the Miami psychiatric and psychological community will be offering a colloquium on various aspects of marriage and divorce on four Tuesday evenings in January, beginning January 8. More details to follow.



FROM THE RABBIS STUDY

## The Art Of Meditation

The Bible tells us that when Rebekkah first saw Isaac, he was "meditating in the field at eventide". From this she learned that Isaac was a serious minded person and the kind of man she would like to marry. In commenting on Isaac's "meditation", the Rabbis said that he was involved in the traditional evening prayer.

The last time I visited Israel, just a few years ago, I went into the synagogue which is underground, just to the left of the "Western Wall". There were several "minyanim", or prayer groups, operating in this rather large area, but I went to the furthest corner of the area, and there I observed a scene that moved me deeply. A single "hasid" was sitting down and praying all by himself. He swayed rhythmically from side to side, almost as if he were a dancer, while his head moved in a more pronounced way, as if to emphasize certain parts of his prayers. This hasid was not just saying his prayers. He was PRAYING "with every limb of his body", as the hasidic tradition teaches. He was reaching for God with every fiber of his being.

Certain sects associated with the oriental religions have claimed the allegiance of many Americans who are fascinated with the processes and results of "meditation". This oriental process is designed to take one's mind off of mundane things so that one can attain that peace which is associated with the divine. The "divine", according to the oriental guru, is "non-being". It is associated with the absence of passion and desire. There can be no question but that this kind of meditation can help certain people (not all) to escape from some of the pressures of modern life.

The guru who advocates this kind of meditation usually gives his devotees a "mantra", a word or phrase from the Indian texts which the devotee then uses as a device for hypnotizing himself into a kind of quietude. I have spoken to hypnotists and to psychologists who are able to achieve similar results with clients by using other devices than a "mantra". It is clear that the mantra is not the important thing in the process, although some devotees begin to associate strange powers to the mantra itself. All of these procedures involve a kind of self-hypnosis which can be valuable to give us moments of rest and relaxation. It ought to be stated that it helps when the process is controlled, at least at the beginning, by a well-trained helper, be he the guru, the hypnotist, or in some cases, the psychologist.

In the past, Jews have not needed the technique of self-hypnosis, because they obtained their peace of mind and soul from the prayer book and the prayer service. One has only to observe a Jew truly involved in the prayers, like the hasid encountered in Israel, to note how completely consuming and helpful the traditional prayers can be. Many modern liberated Jews, however, find it more difficult to get involved in the traditional prayers, so they have the need to resort to devices not associated with Judaism. They look not to the Rabbi as their teacher but to the guru or the hypnotist. Psychological help in the hands of a person truly qualified is really of another dimension and allied to the perspective derived from Judaism.

Rabbis, down through the ages, have had to study the new philosophies and trends of the time in which they lived in order to be able to cope with the challenges they presented to Judaism. So we modern Rabbis have had to bone up on our yoga and even on hypnotism (amongst other things). We are able to recognize the good that is in each of these procedures. (It is hardly fair to group psychology, which is a profound science, with yoga, and hypnotism which cover more limited fields.) Nonetheless, we say with the assurance and conviction born of intense study that meditation which does not urge the meditator to reach out to the broader community and to serve the group and mankind is merely another form

## Reform Judaism In Israel Discussion On Tuesday, November 27th at 8:00 PM

You're invited to come and learn about ARZA, the organization of Reform Zionists. Come and participate in the history of the Kibbutz Yahel (our Reform Kibbutz) and the progress and future of the Leo Baeck School of Haifa, our Reform Jewish Academy in Israel. Rabbi Allan Levine of UAHC STAFF, Israel, and Rabbi Robert Samuels, Dean of the Leo Baeck School, will be with us Tuesday, Nov. 27th, at 8 p.m. at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Louis Bogage, 5875 S.W. 100 Street. Rabbi Bogage, UAHC Southeastern Regional Rabbi will moderate the program. Join us and be a part of our Reform Jewish future in Israel.

## Volunteers Needed To Help The Boat People

Vietnamese "Boat People" are being resettled in Miami. Anyone interested in giving some time to help these people adjust to life in Miami, please call the Temple Office at 666-5587 and leave your name with the front desk. We Jews were the original "Boat People", and now others could use our help.

## Learning Center Subscribers



We are grateful to the following family who has chosen to dedicate a column in the walkway of the New Learning Center.

Nard and Bonnie Helman

## B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, December 1  
11:15 a.m.



Brenda, daughter of  
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Levine



Will, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sekoff

of ego satisfaction. The individual, Judaism insists, is most at peace not when he sits alone impervious to the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, but when he reaches out to touch others and becomes involved in creating shalom for others as well as for himself.

The thrust of the Jewish religious service has two goals, quietude for the individual and shalom (harmony) for society as a whole. The dynamic for these goals is derived from a God who cares. The oriental god says, "learn to do nothing". The God of Israel proclaims, "justice, justice, you shall pursue". There is a difference between the god of inaction and the God of social action. (In another column we will suggest specific Jewish religious procedures for achieving meditative calm.)

## Learning Center Cash Drive

We would like to thank the congregants listed below who have participated in the cash drive for the Learning Center. These are in addition to those listed in previous weeks. The gifts are truly helpful and greatly appreciated.

An Anonymous Family  
Allan R. and Patricia J. Bonilla  
Alvin and Jackie Rose  
Arlene L. Sheldon

## We Give Thanks...

### RABBI'S FUND

Drs. Nancy & Mel Greenfield in memory of Glenn Neal Greenfield

Kitty Halpert in memory of Ida Cohen  
Gail & Mark Snider in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter,  
Janet  
Muriel Turoff in Memory of Anna Mainfeld.

### LIBRARY FUND

Friends at the Riviera Real Estate Office in memory of Mac Green,  
father of Barbara Pales  
Sari & Jack Gold in honor of the new granddaughter of Jean &  
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Samuel Hollander in honor of their 39th wedding anniversary  
on Thanksgiving

### TEENAGE BUILDING FUND

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David, Lori Rubin in memory of Edwin Rubin

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Celia Shapiro in memory of Anna Lubin  
Richard A. Woolf in memory of Samuel E. Woolf

### LEARNING CENTER FUND

Erwin M. Andisman in memory of Fanny Andisman  
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Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Davis in honor of the 70th wedding anniversary of  
Bea & Harry Gastwirth  
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Dr. & Mrs. James Goodman in memory of Rosa & Morris Goodman  
Frank & Gerry Legow in memory of the Father of Barbara Lifsec  
Tulia Levy in memory of Samuel Wolcovinsky  
Barbara & Harry Lifsec in memory of David Stone  
Ira & Valerie Pfeffer in memory of the father of Barry Goldstein  
Cessy & Richard Rubinson in memory of Sidney Heinrich

## "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)

## LAST CALL WRITTEN CONFIRMATIONS FOR BAR/BAT MITZVAH DATES DEADLINE - DECEMBER 1st

### Recent Library Acquisitions

#### STUDENT FICTION

"A Small Town Is A World" by David Kossoff. Humorous stories about a rabbi in a shtetl.  
"A Sound To Remember" by Sonia Levitin. A delightful tale about whom the rabbi chose to blow the shofar.

#### STUDENT OF SPECIAL INTEREST

"Understanding Judaism" by Eugene B. Borowitz. A clear concise understanding of our religion.  
"Pride Of Our People" by David C. Gross. The biographies of 100 outstanding Jewish men and women.  
"Natural History" by M.B. Goffstein. A peek at our planet, in simple language illustrated with pleasant water colors.

#### ADULT FICTION

"The Establishment" by Howard Fast. Continuing the saga of "The Immigrants" and "Second Generation".  
"The Empty House" by Michael Gilbert. Israelis, Palestinians and the British West Command are all interested in a car accident possibly involving an important scientist.  
"Over and Above" by Laura Z. Hobson. A new novel by the author of "Gentleman's Agreement".  
"The Ghost Writer" by Philip Roth. Philip Roth's new novel about a world famous writer and his disciple.  
"Old Love" by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Short stories by the Nobel Prize winner.

#### ADULT OF SPECIAL INTEREST

"Summoned To Jerusalem" by Joan Dash. The life of Henrietta Szold.  
"Pilgrimage" by Perle Epstein. The Journey of a seeker from New York to India to Jerusalem.  
"When Memory Comes" by Saul Friedlander. The memoir of the Author who was born in Prague in the 1930's.  
"Rosh Hashanah And Yom Kippur" by Howard Greenfeld. The third book in the holiday series.  
"Explaining Divorce to Children" by Earl A. Grollman.  
"Prophets Without Honour" by Fredric Grunfeld. Biographical sketches of the intellectual community of Western Europe before the Nazi era.  
"Merchant Princes" by Leon Harris. Intimate history of the Jewish families who built great department stores.  
"Not Chopped Liver!" by Dorothy Seaman & Paula Smith. The Kosher Way to Cook Gourmet.  
"A Lexicon of Jewish Living" by Patti Shosteck. A collection of folklore, foodlore, history, customs and recipes.  
"Coming Home To Zion" by Abraham Shulman. A pictorial history of pre-Israel Palestine. Stunning photos.  
"The Fugu Plan" by Marvin Tokayer & May Swartz. The untold story of the Japanese and the Jews during World War II in the Pacific.

## 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.

## Young Singles To Sponsor Outing

Beth am's Young Singles next big event is a barbeque at Tropical Park on Sunday, December 8, beginning at 2 p.m. Reserve this date now for what promises to be another successful event.

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

Other items you might have

## Yahrzeit

NOVEMBER 30

10 KISLEV

Ruth Baros, Jack Berns, Lew Birnbach, Victor Bluestein, Bernard Brauston, Anna Lea Carlin, Nathan Cook, Samuel Cutler, Jeannette Ehrenkranz, Morris Eisenman, Arthur Feigenbaum, Harry Fow, Harry Fox, Samuel Frank, William Friedman, Jessie Geller, Maelyn Goldman, S.E. Gould, Bessie Herman, Samuel Herman, Florence Karlinsky, Lilli Kimler, Anna Kurland, Hyman Leglow, Carol Leon, Oscar Magazis, Pearl Levine, Renato Levi, Benjamin Levy, Bernard Lowenthal, Morris Orlin, Sidney Reich, Aline Schwartz, Alex Scott, Alexander Stone, Samuel S. Stahl, Rebecca Strunin, Eli Trainor, Max Wolofsky, Martin Young.

CELEBRATE with your friends.

Friday, February 1, 1980  
Rabbi Schindler, President of the UAHC will speak.

Sunday, March 23, 1980

Gala Dinner Dance at the Intercontinental Hotel.



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