

FAMILY SERVICE, Friday, May 2, 1980, 7:30 p.m.
 RABBI STUART G. WEINBLATT
 "A MAGIC FORMULA FOR THE FUTURE"
 SINGLES TORAH SERVICE, Friday, May 2, 9:30 p.m.
 RABBI MITCHELL CHEFITZ
 In Chapel of Teenage Building
 TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, May 3, 1980, 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

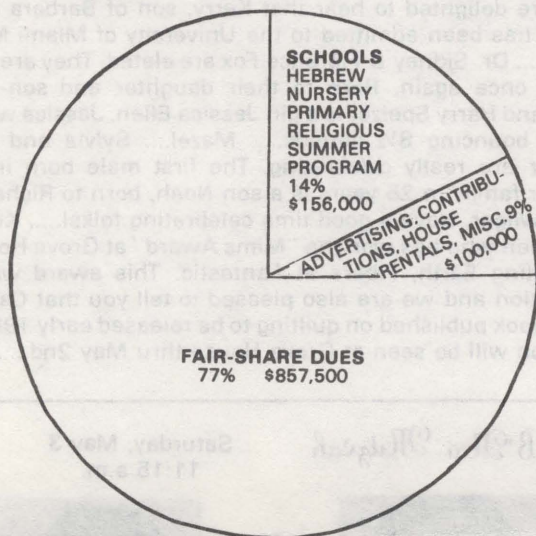
May 2, 1980

Miami, Florida

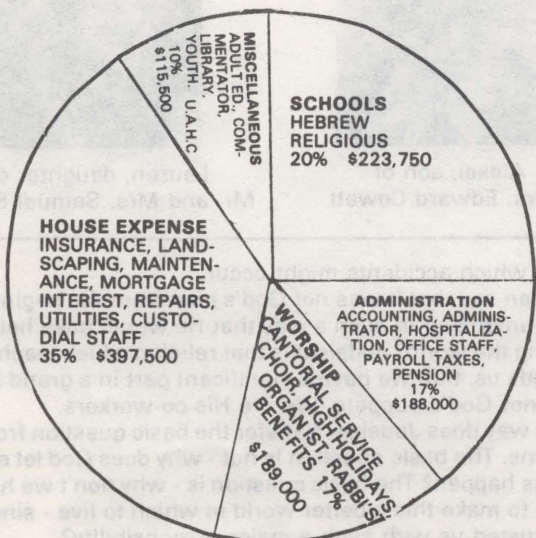
Budget of 1980-81 Reaches Record

At the last Board meeting, The Temple Board adopted the budget as proposed by the budget committee. The budget for 1980-81 will total almost \$1,000,000. This does not include the operation of the Nursery/Kindergarten/Day School or the Summer program. Shown below are two "pies" which show our sources of income and our areas of expense.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



GENE ROY
From the 30's to the 80's

Nostalgia Night, All The Way— May 3rd at 8:00 P.M.

We'll be looking back at the Big Band Sounds of the 40's and 50's on Saturday, May 3rd, at 8:30 p.m.---with the music of Gene Roy and some of the musicians who played with the all time greats—Harry James, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, etc. Their music crosses easily from a nostalgic swing style to spirited renditions of tunes from American musicals.

All this Beth Am is presenting in conjunction with P.A.C.E. (Performing Arts for Community and Education, Inc.).

Also, that night, will be an opportunity to look even further back, to the turn of the century, with Beth Amites exhibiting memorabilia set up by the Cultural Arts Committee.

There is no admission charge, and we'll serve refreshments, yet! Is this any way to end our 25th Anniversary year???---YOU BET IT IS!!!

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology a Catalyst for Peace in the Middle East

Names like M.I.T., Cal Tech, and Georgia Tech conjure up pictures of advanced learning centers in this country, graduating annually, engineers and other technicians destined to keep industry's wheels turning. To this distinguished list must be added the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, whose principal purpose in being is to account for over two-thirds of Israel's engineers, also trained to develop and maintain Israel's position in industry, defense, and rural and urban planning.

Technion grants the following degrees: Bachelor, Master and Doctor of Science and Doctor of Medicine. Its faculty teaches 20 different disciplines. Its student body while predominantly Israeli, including Arabs and Druze, includes over 1,200 Jewish students from 40 countries. Women comprise over 15 percent of the student enrollment.

To enlighten us more about Technion, we have requested that Samuel B. Topf, President of the Greater Miami Chapter of the American Technion Society talk with us. By the use of film, we shall see pictures of this great institute of learning illustrating its activities.

We urge you to attend this breakfast, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on May 11, 1980, in our Youth Lounge. The donation is \$1.50 for Brotherhood members and \$2.00 for our guests. Ladies are always welcome. Remember, only an informed congregant can make intelligent decisions.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

IS GOD "OMNIPOTENT?"

The word "omnipotent" means "all-powerful." In the popular mind, it has come to imply, when applied to God, that He causes everything that happens. Specifically, God is thought by the traditional advocates of this concept to be responsible for deciding which plane shall crash and which baby shall be born healthy or unhealthy. If "omnipotence" implies all this, then, I do not believe that God is omnipotent.

I do believe that God is all-powerful. I believe that He is more powerful than many traditionalists believe Him to be. I believe that His power is beyond our understanding, for how can we comprehend the Creator of the atom in all of its complexity and precision? God has indescribable power, but He is not omnipotent, in the technical sense.

He is not omnipotent, in my view, because accident is possible within this magnificent universe. A thousand babies are born, and 999 are healthy (with an assist not only from God, but from the practitioners of modern medicine, who are His agents). God is responsible for the process of birth and procreation. It is an unbelievably complex and miraculous process. Nonetheless, things can go wrong, even with this almost sure process. The world is not perfect. God's power is beyond our comprehension, but it is not perfect.

Some people think that if God is not perfect, that He is not God, for, to their mind, a god must be perfect. Why? Isn't it enough that God's ability is magnificent beyond our comprehension? Surely, we would prefer that He be perfect (perhaps that is His aim and hope), but God is not merely the projection of our wishes. He is what He is.

Does God cause some to have cancer and not others? I trust not. The perplexity of the doctor and surgeon before cancer (they are doing better all the time) is just a pale imitation, in my opinion, of God's frustration before this deviation from health. He does not choose suffering for any of us.

What does God do when a good person dies too young? I do not believe that God is beyond suffering Himself. I think He cries with us. The imperfection of this grand universe is His suffering. When sadness visits us, we are not alone. The Maker of the Universe is at our side.

What is left when we lose a loved one? Only the universe and its Creative Spirit. Only the millions of opportunities to grow and to experience happiness. We cannot mourn overmuch for the imperfections. We have to grasp the near perfection that abounds all around us and work with it and enjoy it.

The fact that the world is imperfect has two corollaries:

1. We have a role to play as God's partners in perfecting the world.
2. We are free to make choices to help improve (or harm) the world.

If the world were perfect, God would control everything that happens, and you and I would have no role to play. We would be just puppets on a string or robots playing our preordained role.

The chance for human beings to grow and to become god-like is predicted on the reality that the world is imperfect. Some philosophers say that God is really perfect, but He has chosen to be imperfect in order that we might have this chance to work and to grow ourselves. If God controlled everything, human life would not be the grand adventure that it can be.

The other side of human freedom is the possibility for evil and accident. Because the world is incomplete and not absolutely controlled, it is possible for human beings to drive their car into a tree, it is possible for disease to strike the most righteous person, and it is possible for one human to murder another. Hitler is the extreme example of the possibility for evil in an imperfect world.

This possibility places upon the caring person the responsibility to fight evil and accident with all of his might. We, as God's agents, must seek to control evil and to narrow down the

God

A CAMP IS ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS STAFF



NICK BRINGAS
Swimming Instructor

Nick Bringas has served as our Swimming Instructor for the last two years at our Summer Program. Nick brings to our summer camp over 25 years of swimming and camping supervision. He holds a Senior Red Cross Instructor's Certificate, has been a Physical Education teacher for 25 years and has served with the Dade County Public Schools as a Physical Education teacher for the past 22 years.

Nick has proven to be well-liked by our summer campers and well-versed in the skills necessary to teach youngsters of all ages, water safety and swimming instruction.

We look forward to a well-rounded summer in our aquatic program this year with Nick as the leader.

JOAN'S JEMS By Joan Schwartzman

We are delighted to hear that Kerry, son of Barbara and Ed Raduns has been admitted to the University of Miami Medical School..... Dr. Sidney & Florence Fox are elated. They are grandparents once again. Born to their daughter and son-in-law, Sherry and Harry Speizer is a girl Jessica Ellen. Jessica weighed in at a bouncing 8½ pounds..... Mazel.... Sylvia and Sylvan Pawliger are really celebrating. The first male born into the Pawliger family in 25 years is a son Noah, born to Richard and Judi Pawliger. Have a good time celebrating folks!..... Kudos to Carol Wien who has won the "Mims Award" at Grove House for her quilting Earth, Fibers at Fantastic. This award was jury competition and we are also pleased to tell you that Carol will have a book published on quilting to be released early 1981. Her exhibition will be seen at Grove House thru May 2nd.....

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, May 3
11:15 a.m.



Alexei, son of
Mrs. Edward Cowett



Lauren, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Smith

areas in which accidents might occur.

Who can say that it was not God's plan from the beginning to create humankind in such a way that He would have helpers in perfecting the world? Judaism is that religion which teaches that God needs us, that we have a significant part in a grand design. We are not God's puppets. We are His co-workers.

In this way does Judaism transfer the basic question from God to humans. The basic question is not - why does God let evil and accidents happen? The basic question is - why don't we humans do more to make this a better world in which to live - since God has entrusted us with such a major responsibility?