



RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, May 9, 1980, 8:30 p.m.

TEACHERS' SABBATH  
RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD  
"THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS  
FOR THE SURVIVAL OF JUDAISM"

TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, May 10, 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

## Beth Am Commentator

May 9, 1980

Miami, Florida

### Shirley and Sam Steen Honored as "Family of the Year"



"The Committee of 100" is proud to announce that at its annual get together on April 20th the "Family of the Year" Award was given to Sam and Shirley Steen. Sam and Shirley have been members of the Temple for over 23 years. They are the parents of two daughters who have come through the Religious School and were Confirmed at Temple Beth Am.

Sam Steen is our immediate Past President and has served on the Temple Board of Directors and as an Officer on the Board for many years. He started as the legal counsel for the Temple on a voluntary basis, has served as our Parliamentarian for many years, was the Treasurer, a Vice-President, and culminated his service as President during the years 1977 and 1978. Sam is currently serving as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and as Chairman of the Personnel Committee.

Shirley has been active in many facets of Temple life and has been a stalwart supporter of Sam in his endeavors with the Temple. The Steen family represents a family of dedication to Temple Beth Am and to Judaism.

### Helping To Build Israel for Over 50 Years

In 1908, a plan was submitted to a German Jewish organization for the establishment of the Technion. Its first building, in Haifa, was completed in 1913. War and other problems delayed the opening of classes, however, until 1924. During the 1930's and 1940's, the Technion expanded, adding new subjects, educating the heroic men and women who created the State of Israel, and who learned to tame their land and build upon it.

With the construction of a new campus on Mt. Carmel, the Technion today is recognized as one of the leading technological universities in the world. Its average enrollment is 6,200 undergraduate students and 3,000 graduate students. Israel's "peace corps," as helpful as in the Peace Corps of the United States, has brought knowledge and guidance to underdeveloped nations throughout the world in such diverse fields as the use of solar energy, desalinization methods, urban and rural planning, and proper use of irrigation techniques. And the Technion has been foremost in providing the Technicians and experts in these and other fields.

To give us more information about this outstanding university, we have enlisted the aid of Sam B. Topf. An engineer in his own right, Mr. Topf is presently a member of the International Board of Governors of the Israel Institute of Technology and serves as President, Greater Miami Chapter, American Technion Society.

We know you will enjoy this last meeting of the current season, and we urge you to attend. The time is 9:30 a.m., and the date is May 11. The place is our Youth Lounge. Donations are, as usual, \$1.50 for Brotherhood members and \$2.00 for our guests, which includes our ladies. Remember, only an informed congregation can make intelligent decisions.

### Jean Gillis and Garnette Friedman Retiring Teachers and Choir Members Honored Fri. May 9

Jean Gillis and Garnette Friedman, two of our very efficient secretaries, are retiring. They will be honored at the Friday night service on May 9th. Jean Gillis, who has served as Religious School Secretary for these past fifteen years will be giving up that job and will be working part time (two days a week) in the Administrative Office. Garnette Friedman, who has served as the Secretary of the Executive Director for these past ten years is also retiring. Both Jean and Garnette will be sorely missed.

Our annual Teachers Sabbath will be held on Friday evening May 9th, at which time the congregation will pay honor to three devoted teachers who have taught in our Religious School for at least 10 years. These three are Judy Clein, Shirah Penn and Joan Schwartz. They are typical of the many faithful, intelligent and committed teachers we have.

In addition two members of the Choir who have been with the organization for 20 years will be honored at the service of Friday, May 9th. They are Bernice Anapol (23 years) and Ann Aibel (20 years). Lou Gillis has sung with the Choir at all Holy Day services for the last 24 years.

### SPECIAL SERVICES PLANNED FOR MAY

ON FRIDAY, MAY 16TH, the youngsters in our Dor Hadash Club (The New Generation) will present their special service of the year. At this service, the Officers and Boards newly elected for the Congregation, the Board of Trustees, Sisterhood and Brotherhood will be installed.

ON FRIDAY, MAY 23RD, this year's Confirmation Class will present their annual creative service. Those who have earned Adult Confirmation will be confirmed. Adult Confirmation is earned by completing four courses, over a period of years, in the Adult Education Institute.

ON SUNDAY, MAY 25TH, a double graduation exercise will feature some 90 members of the Confirmation Class. In addition, those youngsters who have completed the requirements for High School Graduation (beyond Confirmation) will receive their awards.



It's time to roll up your sleeve...

May 18th  
is Blood Bank  
Sunday

The Bloodmobile will be at our Social Hall on Sunday, May 18th between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please pledge a pint of blood and call Doreen Marx at 667-5587 or Diana Elson at 665-1958 or give your pledge to others who may contact you. Brotherhood will as always serve a delicious breakfast and hostesses will help keep things running smoothly.

We need your help on Sunday, May 18th.

### BAFTY CAR WASH ON BLOOD BANK SUNDAY

Have your cash sparkling clean. Come to BAFTY's Car Wash at the Temple on Sunday, May 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

### LIFE REGIMEN OF RITUAL FOR JEWS

(in two parts)

For more detailed information, get "Gates of Mitzvah", a wonderful new book, at the Judaica Shop.

#### 1. NAMING:

A) BRIT: Baby boys are named at a religious ceremony called a BRIT (BRIS). This ceremony, by tradition on the eighth day after birth, includes circumcision plus appropriate prayers wherein the male child is admitted to the BRIT or covenant made between Abraham and God. During the ceremony, the male child is given a name in Hebrew. The circumcision is the physical sign of a covenant member. Although today most male babies are circumcised for health reasons, originally the practice had more profound psychological and symbolic reasons.

B) Baby girls are named at a religious service in the synagogue. There is no physical ceremony for girls, but there is a special prayer through which they are blessed and named.

C) Boys may be named in a public ceremony in the Temple after the naming at the BRIT ceremony, not as a substitute.

2. CONSECRATION: Many religious schools have a consecration service for boys and girls entering the religious school. This may be at kindergarten or first grade level. The service is usually at Sukkot time (as at Beth Am).

3. BAR MITZVAH: When a Jewish boy is thirteen years of age, he has the honor of being called up to say the benedictions before and after the reading of the scriptural lesson on the Sabbath. Bar Mitzvah means "son of the Commandments", i.e., when a boy is thirteen he is responsible for obeying the commandments. In the Orthodox tradition, he may now be counted one of the religious quorum of ten men.

In modern times, the boy is frequently asked to read much more of the service and to give a sermonette also. Some girls participate in the BAT MITZVAH ceremony. This may be identical to the Bar Mitzvah ceremony, or it may vary, depending upon the congregational affiliation.

It is customary for a party to be given by the family at this time in honor of the occasion. The tradition encourages a simple party in which the poor are invited to participate, but today families invite relatives and friends from out of town and turn the occasion into a family reunion and celebration. It must be understood that the party has no specific religious significance, and that there is nothing "Jewish" about the party. The spending of excess sums of money on the Bar Mitzvah party, which might well go to charity, is not in good taste.

4. CONFIRMATION: Reform Judaism stresses Confirmation rather than Bar Mitzvah, since it is a higher graduation. In this ceremony, the young person confirms his faith as a young adult during the holiday of Shavuot, which commemorates the time that Moses received the Ten Commandments. In most Reform congregations today, confirmation comes at the end of the 10th grade. This is for both boys and girls. While the young person is usually given the opportunity to confirm his faith as an individual, the ceremony honors the entire class as a group.

5. MARRIAGE: The word for marriage in Hebrew is "KIDDUSHIN" which means "the process of making holy." Most Christian wedding ceremonies lean heavily on the original Jewish ceremony, but there are some interesting differences. The Jewish ceremony revolves about three main symbols:

A) WINE: The couple sips from the wine cup. Wine is the symbol of creativity in Judaism, symbol of God's continuing presence and blessings. Through this symbol, the couple pledges to become co-partners with God in the creation that knows no end.

B) RING: The man places a ring on the woman's finger, thus claiming her uniquely as his own. He says the words, "Behond thou art consecrated to me according to the laws of Moses and Israel." In modern times, the woman may place a ring on the man's finger and repeat the above words of consecration. When the vows are completed, the Rabbi may join the two hands together and say the first of seven benedictions, "Blessed art

### A Camp is Only as Good as its Staff

Dorion King will be serving as our drama expert for our Summer Program. Dorion is married to Noel King who has served as a Youth Advisor and who teaches in the weekend Religious School.

She is the mother of three children and has had vast experience in camping. She has served six years as a teacher in various public and private schools. Dorion has been a director of drama for the Jewish Community Center of South Florida. We expect her to provide an inspiring and varied program for our summer campers.

### Radio Program Features News Live from Israel

Rabbi David Eleizrie, director of the Chabad House Jewish Student Center at the University of Miami has announced that the weekly radio program, The Sunday Morning Simcha will be presenting news live from Israel.

The Simcha's Israeli correspondent Leah Rabi will be reporting directly Sunday mornings through a phone link up to the studio of WVUM in Coral Gables. Rabi is well known in Miami for her high quality reporting.

The show features Jewish, Israeli, Chassidic and Jewish folk tunes. In addition to the music selections the show also sponsors the Sunday Morning Magazine. The Magazine has interviews and reports on topical Jewish issues.

The Sunday Morning Simcha is Miami's only Jewish radio program. It is sponsored by the Chabad House Jewish student Center at the University of Miami and the Israel Action Committee and campus student group.

Rabbi Eleizrie explained, "The Simcha is an important program involving students in a creative effort which benefits the campus and all of the Jewish community."

The Simcha can be heard every Sunday morning on WVUM F.M. 90 from 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. The news report from Israel is featured at 7:55 a.m. and the Sunday Morning Magazine at 8:20 a.m.

### B'Nai Mitzvah Saturday, May 10



9:15 a.m.

Alys, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Dolfi  
Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Stone

11:15 a.m.

Evan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gavrin  
Kevin, son of Dr. and Mrs. Karl Green

Thou, O Lord.. who creates everything to His own glory...even this marriage."

C) BROKEN GLASS: Traditional Rabbis all use this custom; some Reform Rabbis do not. When the ceremony is substantially over, the groom steps on a glass (carefully wrapped), and shatters it, in memory of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (by the Romans). This is an act identifying the couple with the Jewish people in particular, and with the community at large. Through this ceremony, the couple is asked to think not only of their own happiness, but to try to ease the sorrow of others (i.e. to "stamp out" human suffering.)

The ceremony concludes with a benediction by the Rabbi.

(to be continued)