



RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, October 24, 1980, 8:30 p.m.
RABBI STUART G. WEINBLATT
"THE IMMORTALITY OF THE 'MORAL MAJORITY' "
TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, October 25, 1980, 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

October 24, 1980

Miami, Florida

Mental Health Topic, Thursday Oct. 23rd "Mid-Life Crisis - Is This All There Is?"

Be sure to come to the Social Hall this Thursday, October 23rd at 8 p.m. The topic for discussion will be "MID-LIFE CRISIS - IS THIS ALL THERE IS?" This program has been planned with our Temple by the Mental Health Association of Dade County. Admission for non-members is \$2.00. Refreshments will be served. Bring your family and friends.

Blood Drive Set For November 23rd In Temple Social Hall

On Sunday, November 23rd, between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Beth Am will aid the American Blood Commission in its nationwide effort to unify the method of collecting and supplying blood. The Commission includes: Department of Health, Education & Welfare; Federal Drug Administration; Medicare; Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

It is a clear duty to our people to supply healthy blood, to reduce the chance of hepatitis with transfusions. Beth Am's drives are now part of its Patient Counselor Program. Please call Doreen Marx 667-6667 or Diana Elson 665-1958 and pledge your pint of blood, or give your pledge to others who might contact you.

We hope to replenish the large numbers of pints our members have been receiving from the John Elliott Blood Bank, when their Bloodmobile comes to our Social Hall on November 23rd.

Brotherhood as always will provide donors with a sumptuous breakfast and we will have hostesses to help keep things running smoothly.

Copies of Rabbis' Sermons Available in Office

Copies of Rabbi Baumgard's sermons on "The Story of Abraham Geller - How Did the Israelis Acquire The Land of Israel?" and "Why Judaism" are now available at the Rabbi's office.

Copies of Rabbi Weinblatt's sermons on "Therefore Choose Life," and "Reform Judaism: The Bridge For Reality" are also available.

Young Singles Halloween Party Saturday Night

The Calabash Club is sponsoring a Halloween party this coming Saturday night, October 25th, at the Banyan Room of the Coconut Grove Hotel. The bash begins at 8:30 p.m. Come and join us for another terrific evening with our own young singles club. Admission is only \$5.00. The festivities begin at 8:30 p.m. See you there.

Our next activity will be an evening with Rabbi Weinblatt entitled, "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Judaism But Were Afraid to Ask." We will meet in Room 101 of the new building on Sunday, November 2nd, at 8:00 p.m.

New Classes Getting Under Way In Adult Education

Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt has just begun his course on "Turning Points in Jewish History." The first session was held on October 21, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 24. This course will continue through November 11th, and those who miss no more than the first session may still enroll.

Lenore Kipper will be offering four more weeks of Hebrew beginning this Thursday evening, October 23rd, and continuing through Nov. 13th. Those who began with her first course, "Hebrew From Scratch" will want to continue in this course, "More Hebrew." To learn a second language is to acquire a new skill. It is impossible to acquire and maintain a new skill in the Arts and Sciences without long and constant study, and the same is true of Hebrew. All those who enroll in the first session are urged to continue with this course.

Beginning on November 5th, Rabbi Hoffman will teach a course in Talmud entitled, "How the Rabbis Saved Judaism." He will deal with passages from the Talmud which reflect the changing attitudes of the Rabbis and show how they developed a personal form of religion which stressed piety, study, and the fulfillment of mitzvot after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. This series will go on for four Wednesday evenings ending on November 26th.

Later in November, there will be a course on Jewish Art led by Rabbi Lewis Bogage. Please watch the Commentator for further details.

Reform Educators Preparing New Curriculum

The first phase of a completely new curriculum for Reform Jews is now being used by a dozen congregations in their pre-school program as part of the evaluation segment of the curriculum. Rabbi Baumgard, who is a member of the National Commission on Reform Jewish Education, reports that changes will be made in the suggested curriculum on the basis of these experiments and finalized by the special national editorial committee.

Rabbi Baumgard is Chairman of the national task force sub-committee on ritual which has been meeting for three years to suggest curriculum for pre-school, primary, middle-grades, junior high, senior high, adult, and senior adult education. Other national task forces sub-committees are working on other phases of the curriculum which are being integrated by the editorial committee chaired by Rabbi Howard Bogot of Dropsie College.

The primary phase of the curriculum will be out soon and other congregations will be chosen to experiment with this part.

Rabbi Daniel Syme, Chairperson of the National Commission is supervising the entire effort which has years to run. In spite of the fact that the final results will not be published for several years, the effects of the deliberations are already being felt in rank and file congregations.

Rabbi Baumgard's national task force on ritual includes Sima Lesser, Director of our early childhood education program.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

HOW HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Over two thousand years ago, the Jews of Judea were locked in a bitter struggle for survival as against the pervasive influence of the culture brought to them by their conquerors, the Greeks. The Jews had survived the military battles which they lost against the armies of Alexander. Many Jews were killed in that campaign, but the Jewish society still survived and the possibilities for a distinctive Jewish life were still there. With Alexander, however, came a whole new way of life dedicated to goals which, up to this time, had been foreign to Jews.

With Alexander came Hellenism. At its best, Hellenism contained many wonderful things. It encouraged people to seek - to seek intellectually and physically. At its best, Hellenism was Plato. At its worst, Hellenism was unrestrained self-expression. In time, as in Judea, Hellenism emphasized sports, sexual freedom, domination by physical power. Many Judeans became hellenistic enthusiasts.

The Jewish way of life was concerned, by contrast, with life's ethical purpose. Hellenistic thinkers asked, "How?"; Jewish thinkers asked, "Why?" The difference in questions is the difference between inquiry for its own sake and ethically oriented religion.

Just recently, a good teacher was complaining to me that the teenagers in her class were not interested in the ethical questions which worried the Rabbis who were Biblical commentators. She asked my advice on what to do. I advised her to talk to them about the Miami Dolphins. Ask them, I advised her, to tell you how they feel when the Dolphins lose. Ask them to tell you how they feel when the Dolphins win. You will, I assured her, get some very warm responses. I continued to recommend: then, ask them how they feel when a senior citizen on Miami Beach is beaten up by a burglar; ask them how they feel when a synagogue is bombed in Paris; ask them how they feel when a bully beats up a kid in school. Ask them, I encouraged the teacher, to compare their feelings between these two types of things - the Dolphins on the one hand and the human events on the other. Ask them to see if they can measure their hellinistic or Judaistic impulses. Then talk to them, I advised the teacher, about what is happening to them in a society which is losing its ethical soul.

Such was the problem of the Jews living under the Greek yoke. Slowly, they were trained to be concerned about who was winning in the colosseum or in the gymnasium, and slowly their attention was drawn away from the important emphases of Jewish life. This is not a column about our school children. This is a column about you and me.

What are the things you worry about? What makes your heart beat fast? Do you spend as much time thinking about the purpose of human existence, as Judaism projects it, as you do on jogging, or playing golf or tennis? To what do you devote significant sections of your time - the pursuit of Jewish knowledge (what do you know about the Bible?) or the pursuits of financial success or the enjoyment of the flesh?

Short decades ago, a teacher said, "Religion is ultimate concern." The Hellenes were concerned about their body and appetitive pleasures. Jews were concerned about justice, the poor, the exaltation of the human spirit. What are you - in the largest part - a Jew or a Hellene?

Open School Board Meeting - Nov. 4, 7:30 P.M.

There will be a School Board meeting on Tuesday evening, November 4, 1980, in Room 28 of the Teenage Building, at 7:30 p.m. This is an open meeting to all interested Temple members.

First

Youth News

BAFTY Starts The Year With A Bang!

Beth Am's Senior High youth group is having one of its most successful years ever! So far, 50 young people have joined the youth group, and all are having an excellent time. Just last week, the youth group went to Disney World. It's not too late to join. BAFTY is open to all Beth Am senior high school students. Membership is only \$18. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday night, November 3rd.

Joan's Jems by Joan Schwartzman

Mazel to Richard, son of Marilyn Udell and Barton Udell who has been designated a James Bowdoin scholar. Richard is a graduating senior at Bowdoin and received this honor for outstanding scholarship.

We are pleased to inform you that Beth Amite Sylvan Holtzman serves as president of the United Family and Children's Service of Dade County and that fellow Beth Amite Penny Marlin is also on the Board.... Mazel to Brenda and Mike Feinberg upon the birth of their daughter Debra....

"Ideas Through Books" Meeting Notice

- BOOK: "THE TIN DRUM" by Gunter Grass. Available in paperback. Highly acclaimed novel about wartime Germany, by one of the finest writers of modern times.
REVIEWER: RABBI JEROME GURLAND, former Rabbi in residence at Beth Am, now on the staff at Temple Beth Shalom.
DATE: THURSDAY, OCT. 23, 1980, 9:30 a.m. or 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: MORNING: Home of Helaine Lipinsky 4850 Ronda, Coral Gables RSVP: 667-2451, or Gail at Temple
EVENING: Home of Sofia Markovitch 11340 S.W. 72 Avenue RSVP: 233-0665, or Gail at Temple

A Letter To The Editor

Dear Rabbi Hoffman,

The residents and staff of Perdue Medical Center want to join me in thanking you for taking the opportunity to visit with us and conducting an especially memorable service. Our residents became so emotional that they cried tears of joy. I learned later from individuals that having you visit was one of the year's highlights.

Have a very happy and healthy New Year. We will be looking forward to seeing you in the future.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES
PERDUE MEDICAL CENTER

Sincerely,
Leslie Bradford
Recreation Therapy

B'Nai Mitzvah Saturday, October 25



9:15 a.m.
Douglas, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Skoke



11:15 a.m.
Kari, daughter of
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Katzman

Rochelle, daughter of
Mrs. Francine Lazar
(No photo available)