

December 25, 1981

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, December 25, 1981, 8:00 p.m.
RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD - Candlelight Ceremony
"THE END AND THE BEGINNING"
TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, December 26th, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

5950 North Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156 • Telephone: 667-6667

Winter Term of Adult Education Begins Monday, January 11th Israeli Dance Starts January 7th

A winter term with a large variety of Judaic and family oriented studies has been planned. There will be two segments consisting of five weeks each, in which a total of nine classes will be offered on a wide range of subjects. Please make note of the classes listed below and mark them on your calendar.

First Session

1. Five Mondays, 7:30-9:15 p.m., Jan. 11-Feb. 8, 1982:
"Our Jewish Heritage: Basic Concepts in Jewish Thought"
Lecturer: Prof. Robert Sandler
2. Five Tuesdays, 7:30-9:15 p.m., Jan. 12-Feb. 9, 1982:
"Jewish History: The Exodus and the Struggle for Nationhood"
Lecturer: Prof. Donald Michelson
3. Five Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Jan. 13-Feb. 10, 1982:
"More Hebrew" - Teacher: Mrs. Lenore Kipper
4. Every Thursday, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Beginning Jan. 7, 1982:
"Israeli Dance for Everyone" - Leader: Shira Baumgard

Second Session

1. Five Mondays, 7:30-9:15 p.m., Feb. 22-Mar. 29, 1982:
"Critical Issues in Jewish Life Today"
Lecturer: Prof. Robert Sandler
2. Five Tuesdays, 7:30-9:15 p.m., Feb. 23-Mar. 23, 1982:
"Jewish History, Part 3, Kings & Prophets"
Lecturer: Prof. Donald Michelson
3. Five Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Feb. 24-Mar. 24, 1982:
"More Hebrew, Continued" Teacher: Mrs. Lenore Kipper
4. Five Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Feb. 24-Mar. 24, 1982:
"The Impact of Divorce on Family Life"
Dr. Harry Graff, Co-ordinator.
5. Every Thursday, 7:30-9:30 p.m., continuing Feb. 18, 1982:
"Israeli Dancing for Everyone" - Leader: Shira Baumgard

Annual Collegian Brunch

Good food; informal discussion
Sunday, December 27th, 11 a.m.

Youth Lounge

Meet
Your
Friends

Reservations
Requested
667-6667

Annual Candlelight Service

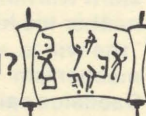
Friday, December 25th at 8:00 P.M.

The Annual Beth Am Candlelight Ceremony will be held on Friday evening, December 25th, at 8 P.M. Please note the unusual starting time of this service is **EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.** This service is being held earlier so that younger members of the family might attend, but this will be an adult service.

All of those attending the service are asked to bring a Chanukah candle (protected by aluminum foil) which will be lit during the service.

This service is one of the most striking to be held at Temple Beth Am throughout the year.

WHO CAN BECOME A GUARDIAN?



Recently, we received a question in the Temple Office asking how you become a Guardian. It is really very simple. The status of "Guardian" involves a pledge of \$10,000, payable over four years, either to a specific project such as the Sanctuary or the Learning Center, or to the general category of "Guardian."

At a recent meeting of the Capital Funds Committee, it was agreed that the Temple should concentrate on developing the level of giving represented by the "Guardian" status without any specific project in mind. As the Temple matures, there is an ever increasing need for capital funds to refurbish and repair our existing buildings. It was felt that the "Guardian" status should be kept open at all times.

Each Guardian of the Temple will be awarded an artistically designed plaque, which is to be awarded at a special function each year to which all Guardians are invited. The first Guardian function will be held this year on Saturday night, January 23rd. In subsequent years, all Guardians will be invited to this function. New Guardians will be awarded their plaques for that year.

In other words, the Guardian campaign is an ongoing campaign. We hope that those members who can afford to become Guardians not only for the first time, but for the second time, will join this effort. We recently received a Guardian Pledge from Ethel Light. Ethel and George Light were benefactors of the two original school buildings, and Ethel in her own right was a Guardian of the Learning Center. She has made an additional Guardian Pledge for the current year. The Dinnerstein family, Jeanne and Elliot, were Guardians of the Learning Center and recently have become Guardians again. The Suchmans, Cliff and Betty, who were Guardians of the Teenage Building, have become Guardians again with their recent pledge.

In addition, in previous years the following families have subscribed to a Guardian Pledge on more than one occasion: the family of George Aibel, Marshall and Marlene Furshman, Robert and Barbara Gittleman, James and Barbara Kaufman, the Kislak family, Neal and Gail Levine, Ronald and Mickey Lipton, Peter and Yiska Moser, Marshal, Danny and Lynn Rosenberg, Joshua and Elsie Segal, and the Beth Am Sisterhood.

We hope our members will be inspired to join the caring Guardian families of Temple Beth Am.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

Part II

(The following is an excerpt from my High Holiday sermon. You may obtain the entire sermon from the Rabbi's office.)

I have said that there are two modern assaults on the Jewish concept that humankind is created in the Divine image. One, as we have discussed, is the assault which says some peoples are created in the Divine image - with certain specific exceptions. The other assault is by those who invert the Genesis teaching. There are some modern thinkers, knowing something of science, who say that now that humans have learned the secret of the atom and the complexity of the human cell, we can forget all about God. We have caught up with Him, these people say. **We** have become the Gods.

So spoke the late Erich Fromm, who admits he obtained his humanism in his Yeshiva, studying Torah. The Hebrew prophets had a word for this arrogance; it is "ga-ah-vah." Pre-scientific man was also capable of this kind of arrogance. The ancient Greeks developed a myth which describes their attitude towards humans who think they know it all. The myth is the story of Daedalus and his son, Icarus. Daedalus built wings for himself and Icarus which enabled them to fly. The father gave his son one stern warning, however. He said, "Fly only at a moderate height, neither too high nor too low." "If you fly too low," said the father, "the wings, which are made of wax, will become damp, and the mechanism will become clogged." "On the other hand," Daedalus said, "if you fly too near to the sun, if you fly too high, the wax will melt, and you will make for your own death." But Icarus, the son, was not to be restrained. What good are wings if one cannot fly all the way to Heaven, itself? Icarus wanted to become one of the Gods, so Icarus flew as high as he could, the sun melted the wax wings, and he fell to his death.

There is a great truth in this particular Greek myth with which Jews can agree. We can try to imitate God in His ethical character, but we cannot displace God; we cannot storm Heaven. Our Jewish doctrine of human potential has as its corollary, the doctrine of humility. The author of the Book of Proverbs declared, "Reverence for God (the awe of God) is the beginning of wisdom."

Contrast with our modern arrogance, the humility of a person like Einstein, the very scientist who developed the theory that enabled us to split the atom. Einstein taught that no matter how much we learn about the universe, we will always be as infants in comprehending it. He once wrote, **"To know that which is impenetrable to us really exists, manifesting itself as the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty which our dull faculties can comprehend only in their most primitive forms, this knowledge, this feeling, is at the center of true religiosity. In this sense, I belong in the ranks of devoutly religious men."**

Einstein had a capacity for awe and wonder in spite of his tremendous intellectual achievements. This awe is akin to the awe of the Psalmist and the religious Jew. Judaism teaches that it is impossible both to stand in awe of God and to believe that we can imitate Him in his holiness. Thus, the religious Jew lives in this state of tension, living under the command of God to try to be like Him ethically and understanding that the more we learn, the more power we humans develop, the more we realize that we are at the very beginnings of knowledge and power.

The Psalmist spoke with this humility when he said, "Oh Lord, when I behold thy heavens, the sun and the moon which thou hast established, (I ask myself) what is humankind that you even think of them?" But then the Psalmist continues to say, "Yet you have made us little lower than the Divine and you have given us dominion over your creations." The Psalmist had a sense of stewardship. He believed that we were placed on earth to do God's purpose.

Judaism teaches that humankind is capable of infinite growth and that it is worthy of being God's steward. Once we say,

(Continued in column alongside)

Don't Forget BAFTY General Meetings!

BAFTY general dinner meetings are held on the first Monday night of every month. Our first meeting of the New Year will be Jan. 4, 1982, at 6:00 p.m. Please come and share your thoughts about possible activities for the New Year. Don't forget, BAFTY Creative Service, Jan. 29, at 8:30. We need your help and support!

Joan's Jems by Joan Schwartzman

We are happy to report that Craig, son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sterling is Dade County's leading rusher with well over 1,000 yards of football strategy. Craig, affectionately known as Earl Campbell of Dade County, attends Palmer Senior High..... Mazel to Keith Housman, son of Marlene and Ted, who has been accepted by the University of Miami School of Medicine..... Calling all members of the Flagler Granada Jewish Center. A grand reunion is being planned for March 20th. Please call Rose Feldman 667-0563 or Roz Berrin (her office) at 557-1900..... Congratulations to Marsha and Jerry Singer upon the birth of their daughter Andrea Leigh. Happy to greet her is older sister Lori Rayna..... Lylle, daughter of Eileen and Bob Breier, has recently added to her aquatic achievement by being a member of the Ransom-Everglades State Champion Water-Polo Team and also continues to be a highly ranked A.A.U. swimmer..... Mazel tov to Leta and Bob Garvett upon the engagement of their daughter Donna to Richard Heiler. The young couple plan a spring wedding..... Much Mazel to Randy Robbins, son of Rita and Sy, who received his rabbinical ordination from the Yeshiva Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in New York..... Much more good news. Mazel tov to Rabbi Mitchell and Wallace Chefitz upon the birth of their third child, and third son, Adam..... Congratulations to Geoffrey, son of Millie and Bob Infeld, who had several acting roles in the Players' State Theater presentation of A X-mas Carol.....

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, December 26



Scott, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Michael
Forman

9:15 a.m.



Carl, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Tomestic



11:15 a.m.

Naomi, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. J. David Zimmerman

however, that we already know what God knows, we have lost the stimulus to grow. There is no more beckoning, no more pull to further greatness. Einstein, in spite of his profound knowledge of the universe, stood in awe before the intricacy of a creation he felt was far beyond his comprehension. Thus, each day to him was an exciting day of discovery, as he went in search of the greater truth. Can modern man continue to believe both in his own potential and in God's transcendent glory? Can we moderns continue to believe in a God who beckons to us to follow His lead? It is not easy in a mechanized and computerized world to believe either in the ethical or in the spiritual.

But Jews who have understood this double claim of our faith have felt the great joy of living with high purpose. I invite you to make this ancient perspective of your people evermore your personal faith.