

January 23, 1981

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, January 23, 1981, 8:30 p.m.
RABBI DR. PAUL STEINBERG
"A REPORT ON SOUTH AFRICA"
TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, January 24th, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

**Save Money!
Register For
Summer Program
before March 31st**

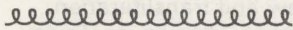


In an effort to control the hiring of staff and to allow for proper planning for the Summer Camp we are offering to hold camp fees at the same level as last year thru March 31 of 1981. If you register for Camp after that date the fees will increase materially.

Nancy Weinfeld, our Summer Camp director, has been meeting with staff to plan a super, fun filled experience for your children this summer.

This year we are extending the age limit to take in children up to nine years of age.

THE CAMP BROCHURE is in the mail. Watch for it. Register Early.



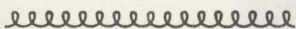
"We, The Family," January 28, 8 P.M.

"We, The Family," a Play for Living, produced by Family and Children's Services, will be presented on our Social Hall stage Wednesday, January 28 at 8 p.m.

The theme is as follows:

The mother of a young child wants to return to school. Her husband, parents and grandmother share their reactions with the audience. Value conflicts between generations, individual freedom and family responsibilities are the human issues presented in this play.

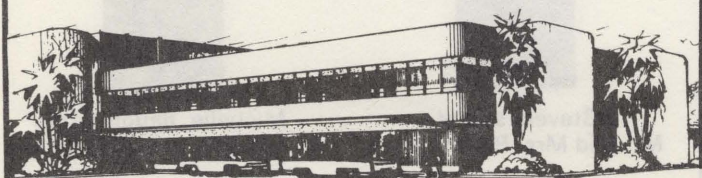
A trained leader will lead the discussion period which will follow the play. Everyone of all ages is invited. Refreshments will be served by Sisterhood. Admission: \$1.00 R.S.V.P. 667-6667.



Guardians of Beth Am

Jerome and Gwen Berlin

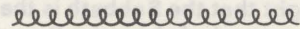
Steven and Linda Brown



Dr. Paul Steinberg Reports on South Africa Friday, January 23rd at 8:30 P.M.

Rabbi Dr. Paul Steinberg, Dean of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, will report to members of Beth Am on his recent lengthy stay in South Africa. Dr. Steinberg's report will be a part of our religious service on Friday, January 23rd at 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Steinberg was in South Africa representing the college and the Reform Movement which has several congregations there. Our Rabbis have been in the forefront of attempts to work for human rights there. We are privileged to have the latest information on developments in that troubled part of the world.

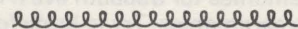


Adult Education Courses for January & February

The Winter Term of Beth Am's Adult Education Program has just begun. Rabbi Baumgard's four week course on "What Jews Believe about God" meeting on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. from January 20th to February 10th is still open for registration.

Beginning in early February there will be a series on the art of interpersonal communication entitled "Person to Person" which will be led by three outstanding psychiatrists who are members of Beth Am. Dr. Harry Graff, Dr. Howard Golden, and Dr. Morton Notarius will each conduct an individual session, the first of which will be held on Wednesday evening, February 4th at 8:00 p.m. The series will culminate with a panel discussion in which all three psychiatrists will participate on February 25th. The discussions, which will take place in the Youth Lounge, will be far-reaching—covering the full range of human relationships and human communication—as parents, professionals, spouses, and in other roles which we may have in our society.

Also beginning in February will be an extremely timely course on "Judaism and Islam" conducted by Professor Yehudah Shamir of the faculty of the University of Miami. Please watch the Commentator for details concerning this and other courses yet to come.



College Prep Meeting At Temple Jan. 22 Helps H.S. Seniors Choose College

All high school seniors are invited to the Temple with their parents on Thursday, January 22nd at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall for a special meeting to receive expert information on colleges, choice of study programs, scholarships, financial aid, etc. Specialists in each of these fields will be present.

The meeting is co-sponsored by the Temple and the Jewish Vocational Service of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. Les Forster of the latter agency is supervising the program. In addition to the above, a Hillel representative will be present to provide information on those colleges where a significant Jewish student body is present.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

THE IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM

Several years ago, a gentleman was sitting at services in the Temple wearing a tallit (a prayer shawl) but no yarmulka. Another member went up to him and said, "If you are going to wear a tallit, why don't you wear a yarmulka?" The gentleman replied, "I don't wear a yarmulka to show that I am not Orthodox. I wear a tallit as a show of linkage to my people."

When I first heard of this incident, I smiled. I thought it funny. Later on, I had more sympathy with the gentleman. He, unlike many, was at least conscious of the need to make an overt demonstration of his linkage to his people. There are many Reform Jews today who say with a certain Bar Mitzvah boy, "I am a Reform Jew. I don't gotta do nuttin'." We may laugh at that boy, but many adult "Reform Jews" act as immaturely.

A people cannot survive unless it has commonly accepted goals and practices. Even if all Reform Jews understood and accepted the basic beliefs of Judaism, the Jewish people would not survive through us, unless we also maintained certain discernible practices which hold us together visibly, pragmatically.

Most "modern" Jews say, "I still observe the High Holidays. That proves I'm a Jew." All that High Holiday observance proves is that there is still a vestage of Jewish identification in our mind. A people does not survive because of once-a-year identification. A religion does not survive in the heart of an individual because it is exercised once a year. A muscle which is not used atrophies. This is also true of a belief and orientation.

The Most Important of All Jewish Holidays

I have always taught that the Sabbath is the most important of all Jewish holidays precisely because it comes once a week. The basic thrust of the Sabbath is that we are to practice on that day "the world to come, ha-olam ha-bah"; that is to say, we are to rehearse living in the ideal world. On that day, we forgive one another, we set aright the wrongs we have done to one another, we cease from our routine chores, we take time to appreciate the glories of nature. The Sabbath begins with a group of ceremonies which are especially beautiful. I have written a pamphlet on the psychology of these ceremonies entitled, "Taking On a New Soul - A Recipe For Young Lovers." The pamphlet is available from my office for the asking.

In my opinion, the performance of the brief Friday evening ceremonies, which together aim at creating a family "love moment" are the IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM of those ceremonies one has to perform in order to keep alive the flames of the Jewish spirit. As part of this moment, our tradition instructs, the father must express his love for his wife, and he must embrace his children and bless them. As part of this moment, we are urged to think of two other themes - the creation of the world and the exodus from Egypt. Creation and Freedom are "Sabbath thoughts" just as the expression of love and forgiveness are the personal goals for this day that makes it different from all others in the week.

Elsewhere in the Commentator (on page 4), we have a summary of the ceremonies for Sabbath eve (Friday night). Start this week with these ceremonies. Try to bring forth from yourself and your family the sentiments solicited by the ceremonies. At first it might be difficult. Later on, it will flow. A ritual is no more than an opportunity, an opportunity for you to be creative and to link yourself to your people who envisioned a different kind of world for mankind.

Announcing a New Book by

Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard, D.H.L.

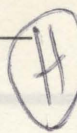
"LOVING WHAT IS CLOSE"

For Sale in the Rabbi's Office

All Proceeds to the Rabbi's Fund

Relive the last 25 years as an American Jew.

Discover new Insights into Judaism and the future of the Jewish People.



Calabash Club Breakfast Sunday, January 25

Beth Am's Young Singles will have a bagels and lox brunch on Sunday, January 25 at the home of Norton and Teddi Segal, 625 Reinante Avenue in Old Cutler Bay. Join us for a delightful morning beginning at 11 a.m. and going until about 2 in the afternoon. Only \$3.00 for members, and \$5.00 for non-members.

Bar Mitzvah Students Purchase Israel Bonds

In cooperation with the State of Israel, and the Israel Bonds office, Beth Am Bar Mitzvah students are now able to use a portion of their gift money to purchase State of Israel bonds.

This is one of several ways in which our young people can demonstrate their support for their people, and their sense of commitment to the fate of the people of Israel.

Those students who choose to purchase bonds will be presented certificates of membership in the "Israel Youth Builders Club" on the first Friday night of each month.

Students who were awarded certificates in the month of January were: Adam Margolis, Andy Reisman, Alan Wildstein, and Gary Bender. Other B'nai Mitzvah who have purchased bonds this year are: Stacey Deutsch, Lee Sobel, Laura Goldberg, Joi Gaffin, and Lori Herskowitz.

The next presentations will be made at the February 6th Family Service. For further information about this program, contact Rabbi Weinblatt.

New Prayerbook Used On Friday, January 30 "Gates of Prayer" To Be Introduced

The Reform Movement in America is now employing, for the most part, a new prayerbook entitled, "Gates of Prayer". The book is published by the Central Conference of American Rabbis and represents the results of years of effort by a special committee.

The book expresses the prayers in modern English where the older Reform Prayerbook uses classical English. The new book is larger and has more variety, including more Hebrew prayers. There is a special section at the end of songs and hymns which appear in Hebrew and transliteration.

Before the service begins on Friday, January 30th, Rabbi Baumgard will go through the general outline of the book with the congregation. For the present the congregation intends to use the book on the last Friday of each month only. The congregation uses Rabbi Baumgard's special service on the third Friday and will continue to do so. The Union Prayerbook, our old prayerbook, will be used on the first and second Fridays. After several months of this procedure, we will make further decisions.

B'nai Mitzvah

Saturday, January 24

9:15 a.m.



Jeffrey, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Morris Futernick



David, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Sanford

11:15 a.m.



Steven, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Korn



Michelle, daughter of
Dr. and Mrs. Harry Weinberg