

January 30, 1981

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, January 30, 1981, 8:30 p.m.
RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD
"TALKING TO GOD - A LESSON IN PRAYER"
 TORAH Service, Saturday, January 31, 1981, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

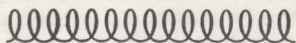
5950 North Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156 • Telephone: 667-6667

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

The One Act Play, "WE, THE FAMILY", will be brought to you Wednesday, January 28th at 8 P.M. in the Social Hall.

There are those who say the family's dead. There are those who say it's indestructible. And there are those who know it's neither one — but changing as rapidly and as radically as the rest of things.

Help yourself to all this production has to offer you and your family. Refreshments by Sisterhood. Admission \$1.00. R.S.V.P. 667-6667.

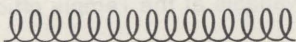


Singles Services Friday, February 6th 9:30 P.M.

The monthly service conducted by Rabbi Morton Hoffman for all singles in the congregation and their friends will be held on Friday evening, February 6th, at 9:30 p.m. in the small Chapel at the rear of the Teenage Building.

This month's service will feature an "Ask the Rabbi" session and a songfest of favorite Jewish songs, both led by Rabbi Morton Hoffman. Questions about God, Torah, Israel, prayer, the Festivals, and any other Jewish subject under the sun are welcome and the discussion will take place in an informal framework.

Following the service, there is an Oneg Shabbat which provides ample time for socializing and for refreshments. Members may wish to spread the word of these services to their single friends.



You are cordially invited INTERFAITH DAY

February 5, 1981, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Am

This is a joint program of: ARCHDIOCESE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN, CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, SYNAGOGUE WOMEN OF DADE COUNTY, in cooperation with FEDERATION'S WOMEN'S DIVISION.

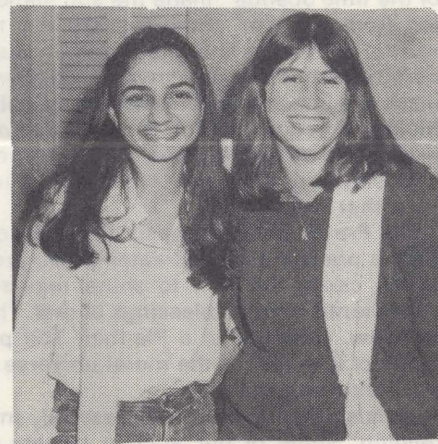
Helene Berger
 President Women's Division
 Greater Miami
 Jewish Federation
 Harriett Bulbin
 Chairman
 Synagogue Women
 of Dade County

Sandi Simon
 Chairman Interfaith Committee
 Synagogue Women
 of Dade County
 Selma Rappaport
 Sisterhood President
 Temple Beth Am

SPEAKERS

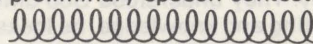
REV. RICHARD BAILAR, Dir. Interfaith Commission of Greater Miami, on Racial and Cultural Tensions
 HOWARD RASMUSSEN, Dir. Crime Commission, on Crime
 MONSIGNOR BRYAN WALSH, Dir. Catholic Service Bureau, on Refugees

HOPE TIEMAN MELISSA SMITH WIN REGIONAL CONTEST



Two BAFTY members won the Regional Contest at the recent regional conclave of youth groups in Atlanta. Hope Tieman and Melissa Smith won top honors in the song writing and speech contests, respectively.

From here, their entries will be submitted to the Reform movement's national competition. Greg Stewart came in second place in the Beth Am preliminary speech contest.

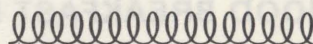


New Adult Education Classes Start In February

Beginning on Wednesday, February 4th, the series entitled, "Person To Person", led by three noted psychiatrists who are members of Beth Am begins. The discussants are Dr. Harry Graff, Dr. Howard Golden, and Dr. Morton Notarius. Each will lead one session by himself and the series will be climaxed on Feb. 25th with a panel discussion involving all three conductors. The course will attempt to discuss issues and problems in interrelating as persons, as parents, as spouses, and in other roles that we play in our society.

On Tuesday evening, Feb. 20th, Professor Yehudah Shamir, of the University of Miami, will begin teaching a most timely and urgent topic, namely, "Judaism and Islam." In this series of four sessions, which lasts through March 13, Prof. Shamir will delve into a field which is for most Americans, both Jewish and non-Jewish, a closed book. Islam, as an aggressive world religion seeking to reassert itself and extend its influence, is poorly understood.

Prof. Shamir is an excellent speaker who was trained in Israel and in this country as an expert in the cultures and politics of the Middle East. His series promises to be a most fascinating one, and all members are cordially invited to enroll.



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.



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

Yesterday, I met with our eighth grade children, and they asked many thoughtful questions about the nature of God as you understand Him in a scientifically oriented age. For some reason, many of the children had developed the idea that if you believe in "science" or "evolution," you cannot believe in God or in religion. Central to the discussion was the question, "Do you believe in miracles?" My answer is, "Of course," but some of the children understood the word "miracle" entirely differently from myself.

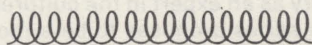
The children still cling to the idea that a miracle was an event that seemed to be contrary to the normal process of nature. When they thought of miracles, they thought of the Biblical description of the time Joshua "made the sun stand still," or when "manna fell from heaven." They seemed not too much aware of the central theme in the Bible and in Judaism that the greater miracles are those very laws which operate regularly and which make the universe and human life possible. The emphasis in our Bible and in our tradition is on Torah. *Torah means law, the law woven into the fabric of the universe.* The miracle which points to God is the miracle of the order of the universe, not the deviations from that order.

Our Prayer-book emphasizes the miracle of the order of nature. God is praised as the Creator of the processes of the universe which cause the sun to shine regularly and night to come consistently with its blessings of rest. The laws of nature are, to the Jew, evidence of a Planner. The physical universe is the result of law, just as the moral universe is guided by law. This is the continuing miracle.

Judaism has evolved progressively into a most sophisticated religion. Some of our ancient fathers thought a miracle was something that seemed to violate the laws of nature, an exception. Later Biblical teachers, like the prophets, interpreted a "miracle" differently. They understood God differently. As man grows in understanding and knowledge, he looks at the universe with broader eyes. If he is sensitive, he does not see less of God, but more of God. God is He who planned the atom and the galaxies, the Author of the small and large, the pervading Presence of the universe. The poet says, "a presence and a spirit that rolls through all things."

Reform Judaism looks at God as the "more" beyond our best nature. He is that stuff from *within ourselves* that moves us to just and loving deeds, and He is a "more of the same" *beyond ourselves*. He is not detached from us, but not merely contained within ourselves. We add to His power, but we are not the limit of His power.

Is the theory of evolution (unproved) consistent with the notion of God? Why not? Certainly, man was not made with a lump of clay in one moment. Man is a complicated being, the nexus of the universe. Maybe we took six billion years to evolve. Does this make our creation any less marvelous? God is the author of law, the law of the continuing creation. Our task is to learn that law, if possible, and to make ourselves a conscious part of that creation. That is what religion means.



BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST FORUM

QUESTION: Should Religious and Other Tax Exempt Institutions Pay Taxes?

PARTICIPANTS: Rev. Dr. Kim Porter, Educator and Minister, who says YES.
Joel Hirschhorn, prominent attorney, says NO.
Moderator: Circuit Court Judge Gerald Kogan

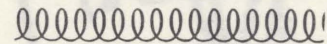
Sunday morning, Feb. 15th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge. Brotherhood members FREE. Life members and Sustaining members may bring one guest free.

God

BAFTY Happenings

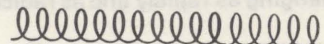
The next regular dinner meeting of the Senior High Youth Group will be on Monday, February 2nd at 6:00 p.m. BAFTY jerseys will be on sale at the meeting so bring your checks for \$6.50.

Members of the Youth Group came out and helped on Federation's Super Sunday. BAFTY presently has 70 members, and is still growing and going strong!



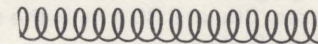
Joan's Jems by Joan Schwartzman

Congratulations to Barbara Kirshner, daughter of Sy and Jeanne upon her engagement to Howard Flanders.... Mazel tov to Eric Bender, son of Bob and Joanne who has become engaged to Sue Rosen. The young couple plan a summer wedding.... Kudos to Dr. Mark Snider who has been chosen chief of pulmonary diseases at South Miami Hospital.... We are proud of Randy Levine, son of Ellie and Gil Levine who was the cinematographer for the recent production on the Holocaust filmed at Auschwitz. He also filmed the recent strikes in Poland exclusively for C.B.S.



New Generations and Beth Americans at Gusman Hall

The Beth Americans and New Generation performed for their second time with the Philharmonic Concert in conjunction with the prelude for an Interfaith Holiday Concert on Dec. 6th. Rabbi and Mrs. Baumgard were present along with many families from Temple. The Beth Americans and New Generation will be singing for the *Around World Fair* for their sixth time. The date is Saturday, February 8th at 12:30 p.m.



Register Now For First Session at Coleman

Contrary to rumor, limited spaces are still available for the coming summer at Camp Coleman for both boys and girls, 8-15 years of age in the first four week session, June 21-July 19. The second session is filled. It is anticipated that the first session will be filled within the next few weeks. If interested in your child attending Camp Coleman this summer, you are urged to enroll him/her now in order that the child be assured a space. Applications are available at the Temple office.

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, January 31

9:15 a.m.



Victor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Brown



Jed Alan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Silver

11:15 a.m.



Lauren Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Beiley



Jill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Savitt