

October 30, 1981

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, October 30, 1981, 8:30 p.m.
"A NEW BEGINNING"

Adult Choir will sing under the direction of Selma Baumgard
TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, October 31, 1981, 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

New Course in Jewish History Begins Nov. 10

The Beth Am Adult Education courses which this year run the gamut from Bible, to Hebrew Language, to Political Science, to Psychology, and to Israeli Dance, continue to meet on a weekly basis. The final session in Rabbi Baumgard's course on "The Prophet Jeremiah" will take place on Tuesday evening, November 3rd. The "Hebrew Language" course, taught by Lenore Kipper, continues to meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 P.M. in Room 24. "The Middle East Today," led by Professor Bernard Schechterman, continues to meet on Thursday evenings at 7:30 P.M. as does Shira Baumgard-Eisenberg's group called "Israeli Dance for Everyone."

One new course will be getting underway on Tuesday evening, November 10. This is an in-depth study of **Jewish History**, taught by Professor Donald Michelson of Miami-Dade Community College. Those who are truly interested in understanding how Judaism started and how the Jewish people shaped it amidst changing circumstances and times, should enroll in this course.

The Beth Am Adult Education Institute asks that students for this course make a serious time commitment. Adults know by now that one cannot learn Jewish History in one short easy "gulp." The members of the Adult Education Committee have, therefore, designed six modules which will consist of five lectures each. It is the first module on **Hebrew Origins** which begins November 10 and concludes just before the Winter break. In these five sessions, the Babylonian background out of which Abraham came, and out of which many early Biblical laws and customs developed, will be studied, as will the entire Patriarchal period. That means that all of Jewish History prior to the exodus from Egypt will be covered in this segment.

Professor Michelson is an outstanding lecturer whose grasp of Jewish History is academically objective and very rich. This will be his first involvement as a teacher in our Adult Education program. The space in which the class will be held will be announced in next week's Commentator when we have a clear picture as to the number of those enrolled. Those interested in enrolling should contact Rhoda at the Temple office

Singles Services at 9:30 P.M. Discontinued

For over a year now, our congregation has conducted a service for single individuals at 9:30 P.M. in the Chapel on the first Friday of each month. These services will henceforth be discontinued.

As a result of many conversations and discussions with already existing singles groups in the Temple, it has become clear during recent months that when it comes to worship services, our singles themselves feel that they would rather mingle with the entire congregation than be a separate entity, holding services apart from everyone else.

We welcome this new attitude as one which is particularly appropriate to the experience of prayer. The various singles groups are not being disbanded. The Calabash Club and the New Beginnings will continue to meet for social events in accordance with their own schedules.

Once again, please note that there will be no singles services on November 6th. Please follow the Commentator for the schedule of regular services.

Creative Service On October 30 Conducted By "A New Beginning"

"A New Beginning," which is a relatively new organization of single individuals in the age group 35-54½, has been meeting with great success since it was organized by members of our Temple earlier this year.

Having met with outstanding success in a series of social events which the group has planned, the very active and enthusiastic board of directors, under the leadership of chairperson Sydelle Efronson, has determined to conduct a religious service on Friday evening, October 30th, in the Sanctuary at 8:30 P.M. Twelve members of the group will participate in the reading and singing of the service. The sermon for the evening will be presented by Norman Scheinin and Sydelle Efronson.

By leading this service in the main Sanctuary together with the entire congregation, "A New Beginning" is making the statement that single individuals should not see themselves as a group apart from the rest of the congregation, but as an integral part of the entire congregation. They are also indicating that social programming is not enough. A group of Jewish singles attached to a synagogue should be seriously involved in the experience of Sabbath and Festival services.

Participating in the services, in addition to those already mentioned, will be Bruce Alexander, Bernice Anapol, Rhona Guberman, Esther Kessler, Lee Leshaw, Dottie Ridge, Gilbert Roston, Harold Simon, Harold Ginsburg, Marty Singer, Flo Altfield and Elyn Elkin. The Oneg Shabbat will be hosted by members of their group who cordially invite the congregation and their friends to attend.

President's Day Breakfast to Discuss The Divisions of Judaism on Nov. 15, 9:30 A.M.

"JUDAISM IN AMERICA, LIKE ALL GAUL, IS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS—DOES IT HAVE TO BE THAT WAY?" will be the topic of discussion at our annual President's Day session of the Brotherhood Breakfast Forum on Sunday morning, November 15th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge. Participants in this discussion will be:

Al Liebert, President of Temple Beth Am, Reform.
Dr. Stephan Fain, President of Temple Samu-El, Conservative.
Abraham Galbut, President of Congregation B'nai Israel, Orthodox
Moderator: Dr. Larry Stein, Past Pres., Bet Breira

The three great branches of Judaism are Reform, Orthodox, and Conservative. Why are they separated, and does that separation in any way hurt the cause of Judaism? We all pray to the same God, why cannot we do that as one people? What does each of these sections teach about God, prayer, Torah, mitzvot, Zionism, the Jewish people, in their Judaism? How does each look upon the role of women in the temple? How are each alike in their teachings?

Admission to this Brotherhood Breakfast Forum will be \$2.00 for Brotherhood members and \$2.50 for non-members. Bring your friends and neighbors. Of course, the ladies are always welcome to these discussions.



Swimming Upstream

When the Jews were conquered by the Greeks in the fourth century before the common era, many of the Jews were so attracted by the worldliness of the Greeks that they rushed into the attractive pursuits of the Greeks, ... art, sports, theatre, new ways of dress, new attitudes towards sex. In time, so involved were these Jews in the Greek perspective of life that they and their children were forever lost to the Jewish people.

We American Jews face a similar problem. I am not suggesting that if you are a participant in the arts or in sports that these things are anti-Jewish. I am saying that if all of your interest is devoted to things that have no Jewish content or meaning, then your concern for Judaism and the Jewish people will diminish, and, maybe, vanish.

I am a lover of the arts and of sports, but I make certain that I spend a great deal of my time reading about Judaism, working with Jewish institutions, observing Jewish holidays and ritual, fund-raising for Jewish institutions, etc. In other words my interest in secular activities is counterbalanced by an interest in Jewish oriented activities. To the extent that you do not do this, you will become increasingly secularized and diluted as a Jew. To the extent that you do not involve your children in Jewish observance and activities, you lead them away from the Jewish people.

No one understands the lure into non-Jewish activities better than I. I can understand the forces pulling our young marriage-eligible people into the single lifestyle. I talk to these youngsters all the time on my college trips and in the many visits they make to my office. Because I see the lures so clearly and understand their attraction, I fear all the more for the future of American Jews.

I am convinced that each of us has to work hard to save American Jewry. I don't mean just work. I mean work HARD. Your parents didn't have to work as hard as you do to save your children for Jewry, because their world didn't have the pull away from family and away from group orientation. We have to counter all the lures directing our peoples elsewhere. This goes for adults as well as for children. All of us are being pulled towards that perspective of life which is essentially pagan (and SO attractive!)

One of the ways to start a counterattack is to live personally by the Jewish calendar. Take your calendar and circle the Jewishly significant dates in it—every Friday evening and Saturday (the Sabbath), the dates for the three Festivals, Passover, Sukkot, Sh'vuot, add in Chanukah and Purim, The High Holidays, Yom Ha-Shoa (the Day for Remembering the Holocaust), Israel Independence Day. Then determine that you are going to plan before each of these dates to do something significant in observing it. Rally your family behind these observances. THE IDEA IS TO SPEND TIME AND ENERGY AND THOUGHT DOING JEWISH THINGS! The more reminders, the more planning, the more participation, the better the hope for Jewish survival for you personally and for your family.

The most important date on this Calendar will be the Sabbath, precisely because it comes each week. If you don't do something that links you to Judaism and to the Jewish people, AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK, you're in trouble as a Jew. Traditional Jews remind themselves constantly that they are Jews as they observe kashrut and maintain their homes in the proper ritualistic fashion. Most Reform Jews don't do this. We need some reminders in this secular world that we are Jews. What is better than Sabbath activities—a great family dinner on a regular basis, with appropriate symbols and blessings (we have an abbreviated description for your use. Call the office.); attendance at the synagogue, especially on Saturday morning with the study of the Torah at the service; personal or family study of the Torah portion of the week (now made easier with the new Reform editing of the Torah). Chances are that you can think of some creative things to do. Get busy. Chalk up your calendar!

REMEMBER, this Saturday night, October 31 from 8:00-12:00 BAFTY will be holding its first dance of the season. We have invited other youth groups to this Harvest **Costume** Dance, so don't miss out on the fun. Prizes will be given for the best and most original costumes. Also, those who are going on the DISNEY WORLD trip must have their money and permission slips in by November 5. For more information call Rabbi Goldstein (667-6667).

Joan's Jems by Joan Schwartzman

We are indeed proud of Robert O'Reilly, son of Vincent and Diane, and Ron Wainshal, son of Harouzi and Yael, who have been selected National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists.... Joseph and Marilyn Solomon together with their grandson Matthew attended a special ceremony inducting Joe's late father Mose Solomon into the Jewish Hall of Fame for special athletics (Mose was a professional baseball and football player) at Columbus, Ohio

Rabbi Baumgard to Visit Boston December 6 Seeks Names of Your Children

Rabbi Baumgard will visit Boston on December 6th (a Sunday) to meet with your college students in that area. He is anxious to have the name of your youngster, and will invite him or her to lunch (or dinner) depending on which is best for the young people.

If you haven't already sent in the name, address, and telephone number of your collegian to the Rabbi at the Temple, do so immediately. We will send him/her an invitation.

Prof. Robert Sandler Speaks at Contemporary Meeting Nov. 1st!

At the monthly meeting on Sunday, Nov. 1st, from 2-4 p.m., in the Youth Lounge, the Contemporaries will be privileged to hear Prof. Robert Sandler speak on his recent trip to China. The subject is fascinating, and the speaker is well known for his ability to mesmerize an audience.

Plans will be discussed for December's pot-luck luncheon, and a general outline of future events will be presented.

Those 60 and over are invited to attend.


CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TEMPLE

The new tax changes going into effect January 1, 1982, will reduce tax rates by at least 10 percent. Therefore, in order to take advantage of the greatest possible tax deduction for your charitable contributions, it is suggested that you consider making your gifts to the Temple during the 1981 calendar year. Also, please remember the Temple when preparing your wills.

For further information concerning gifts, bequests, or endowments to the Temple, please contact David Stuart, Temple Administrator.

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, October 31
11:15 a.m.



Michael Jon, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Filmore Chaiken