

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, April 23, 1982, 8:15 p.m.  
**RABBI MORTON HOFFMAN**  
**"THE RIGHTEOUS GENTILES"**  
**YOM HASHO'AH - HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
 Adult Choir Will Sing Under the Direction of Selma Baumgard  
**TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, April 24, 1982, 11:15 a.m.**

# Beth Am Commentator

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

## Holocaust Memorial Service this Friday at 8:15 p.m.

On Friday evening, April 23rd, at 8:15 in the Temple Sanctuary, a special service of memorial to the victims of the Holocaust will be conducted in observance of the annual Holocaust Martyrs Day.

The service will be highlighted by a special Yizkor in which several of the songs of the Holocaust in Yiddish and Hebrew will be sung by Rabbi Hoffman, and the Choir will also sing a memorial prayer. Rabbi Hoffman will speak on "The Righteous Gentile."

All Jews of this generation are profoundly marked by the experience of the Holocaust, whether they are survivors, or only distantly related to the victims. The purpose of the service is both to fulfill the mitzvah of saying Kaddish for the victims and to gain perspective for the living.

*It's time to roll up your sleeve...*



**GIVE  
BLOOD  
NOW**

April 25th  
**IS BLOOD BANK  
 SUNDAY  
 AT BETH AM**

The South Florida Blood Service Mobile Unit will be at our Social Hall on Sunday, April 25th between 8:30a.m. & 2 p.m. Please come and donate a pint of blood. YOUR blood is urgently needed to help those in critical need. A few minutes of your time may save a life!

Please call the Temple office 667-6667 to tell them that you will be there.

Blood is life and people willing to share it are the only hope for people who need it. There is a shortage in Dade County which affects us all. (We never know when our own personal blood needs may arise). Your blood donation is appreciated. Thank you for your gift of life. A delicious Brotherhood breakfast will be served to all donors and we promise to get you "in and out" as speedily as possible. See you on April 25th.

## College Committee Sends Gifts to Collegians

During the Passover holiday, members of Beth Am's College Committee sent a "Passover we care" package to each college student whose address we have on file. We hope it made this holiday a more meaningful one to each student who knows that Beth Am cares.

This project was completed by Helene Dubbin, Evelyn Goodman, Jean Leibert, Selma Rappaport and Teddi Segal. Happy Holiday!

## Annual Congregational Meeting at Temple To Be held Monday, April 26th, 7:30 p.m. "Humor of the Beginning Years" by Joan Schwartzman

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Temple Beth Am will be held on Monday night, April 26th, at 7:30 p.m., in the Youth Lounge. At this time, the members of the congregation will be asked to approve the slate of officers who were nominated to serve for the 1982-83 year. The officers to be elected are as follows:

President .....	Al Leibert
Executive Vice-President .....	Barry Goldstein
Vice-President .....	Evelyn Goodman
Vice-President .....	Edgar Lewis
Vice-President .....	Ira Pozen
Vice-President .....	Edie Spiegel
Vice-President .....	Michael Weisberg
Financial Secretary .....	Michael Brown
Treasurer .....	Jerold Schwarz
Corresponding Secretary .....	Robert Sandler
Recording Secretary .....	Teddi Segal

The following members were nominated to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors, term to expire in 1985: Jerome Berlin, Miriam Cohen, Iris Franco, Howard Frank, Harold Gaffin, Herb Neuman, Michael Noble, Dr. Arvey Rogers.

There is one opening on the Board for a two year term to expire in 1984. Nominated was Barbara Kaufman.

Joan Schwartzman, our long suffering associate Administrator will recount several "inside" humorous stories of the early years of the Temple. Joan's humor will help lighten the brevity of the various reports.

## South Florida String Quartet Concert Sunday, May 16th at 4:00 p.m.

## Rabbi Goldstein Conducts Interfaith Seder

On Wednesday, March 31, Rabbi Goldstein conducted a seder for the Confirmation Class (plus parents) at Christ the King Lutheran Church, on Red Road at S.W. 112 St. Over a hundred people shared the experience and invited the Rabbi back for next year.

## Israel Bonds Brunch

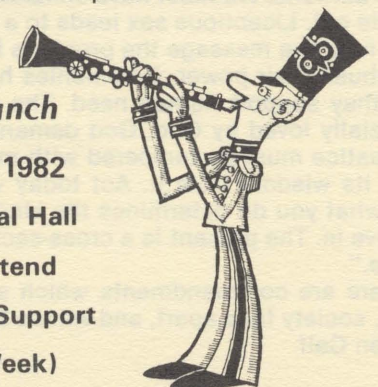
Sunday, June 6th, 1982

10:00 AM in Social Hall

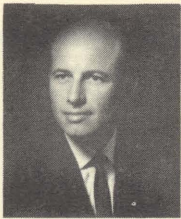
Plan Now to Attend

Israel Needs your Support

(Details Next Week)







## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

### GOD AND THE COMMANDMENTS

It is no accident that in our age there is a questioning of the reality of God and an attack on the authority of social standards. The two go together. Passover marks the time when a people, for the first time in human history, stood up on their hind legs and said, "We will not be slaves. We will be free". The story in our Bible also tells us that for the first time in the annals of human endeavor, there appeared a God who said, "The slaves are My people. They are precious to me. I hear their outcry. I feel their pain. I will move to liberate them". The two notions, a God who cares about slaves and a people with the courage to seek their freedom, go together. They are inseparable.

In the incident of the Golden Calf, we learn that many of the ex-slaves interpreted freedom as the right to do whatever you wished (sexual debauchery, et al). Moses sought to teach the people that there is no free society without standards and limitations. Freedom is secure only when there are laws upon which all concerned agree. The Israelites were not really free meaningfully until Moses placed the commandments upon them and they *accepted* the commandments. The biblical story makes it clear that the people consciously accepted the limitations on their freedom.

When is a law DIVINE? It is divine when it is absolutely essential to the functioning of the society. In different ages, different rulers have sought to impress the people that essential laws were rooted in the gods. Thus Hammurabi, the great Babylonia ruler said that his god handed down this law: "If a slave escapes to your home and you do not return him to his master, you are guilty of a felony and may be killed". Moses in Canaan said that his God handed down this law: "If a slave escapes to your home and you return him to his master, you are guilty of a felony.". The gods were different, yes, but so were the societies. The Hebrew society was rooted in the search for freedom, so its God spoke out of the context of respect for human dignity.

How do we know what the gods say? We hear them with an ear trained to hear in a certain way. If we are trained to be sensitive one way, we seem to hear God speaking that way, but if we revolt against that old way, we hear God speaking in another way.

In modern times we do not hear the gods saying anything. Or rather we hear them saying, "Eat, drink, and be merry, because tomorrow you die". Unfortunately, there's nothing new about this message. It's the old message that Romans heard in the decadent days of their society. It's the message that Canaanites heard their gods saying before the Hebrews cast out those gods.

What do I hear God saying today? I hear the message Moses heard. "There can be no society without caring families. We must revere the aged and the young. We must marry someone who will help us preserve our value system and traditions. We must have children so that our people will not die out. Licentious sex leads to a breakdown of the family". I hear the message the prophets heard. "The rulers must not abuse their power. Ceremonies have value to the extent that they support human need. The poor and the weak are especially loved by God. God demands justice from us, but our justice must be tempered with mercy. Study the past to draw its wisdom from it. Act today with the understanding that what you do determines the kind of world your children will live in. The present is a cross-section of the past and the future."

There are commandments which are divine. If we violate them, society falls apart, and we are back dancing before the Golden Calf.



Pictured above are some of our 9th graders at their Youth Group retreat at Camp Owaissa Bauer. Fun was had by all.

### Collegians Dine with Rabbi Baumgard

On Wednesday, March 31st, twenty-two Beth Am collegians attending the University of Florida had a sumptuous dinner at the Hillel House on campus with Rabbi Baumgard who flew up for the day. The collegians, who were the guests of Beth Am, discussed the questions which were on their hearts.

Rabbi Baumgard reported that this was the best discussion in his memory. The informal meeting which began at 5 p.m. went well past the dinner hour and in spite of tests, most of the students were reluctant to leave.

Attending were Neil Berman, Amy Brenner, Stephanie Cohen, Ginny Aible, Eric Dubbin, David Eisenman, Eddie Friedman, Wendy Guberman, Leslie Friedland, Dean Gould, Richard Herman, Marcie Hacker, Gary and Jeff Kluger, Stephan Mack, Diana Rose, Jan Stern, Stephanie Schwartz, Stuart Sheldon and Valerie Tendler.

Students are invited to this annual dinner on the basis of names submitted to the Rabbi's office by parents. If your child was not invited it is because we don't have the name and address.

### "Rap" Session, Children with Aging Parents April 21st

At our next session, on Wed., April 21st, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 101, we will have as a resource person, Shuli Schickman, of Jewish Family Children Service. She is a Senior clinical worker in services for older adults, and also leads a group at Jewish Community Center, Elders program.

Many thanks to Dr. Sol Landau, who made our last month's rap session a lively one, and added a new dimension - - that of concerns of the middle years. He gave us food for thought on planning for future retirement, and touched on career changes in the later years.

There's lots to talk about, so come and "rap" about your concerns regarding your parents. We'll listen, and, hopefully, come up with some answers.

### Adults Coping With Divorce - Children of Divorce

New, on-going, self-help support groups are being formed. For four Wednesday evenings/ April 28, May 5, 12 and 19, Adults Coping with Divorce will meet from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Chapel, and a separate group, Children of Divorce, ages 11 1/2 - 14, will meet simultaneously in Room 28. This Bar/Bat Mitzvah year is a particularly stressful one.

These groups will be informal Rap Sessions, airing problems and solutions. They will be led by experts from Jewish Family and Children's Services.

Please call in your names to Diana Elson, 665-1958

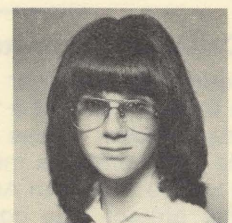
### B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, April 24



Caryn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Butwin

11:15 a.m.



Dana, daughter of Mrs. Ellen Heller and Mr. Drew Heller