

December 17, 1982

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, December 17, 1982, 8:15 p.m.

RABBI HERBERT BAUMGARD

will narrate

CHANUKAH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Adult Choir Under the Direction of Selma Baumgard

TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, December 18th, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

Commissioner Ruth Shack Guest Speaker at Brotherhood Breakfast Forum Sun. Dec. 19

Dade County Commissioner Ruth Shack will be the speaker at the next Brotherhood Breakfast Forum on Sunday morning, December 19th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge. Her topic of discussion will be her view of the "State of the County."

Commissioner Shack has been a long and consistent fighter on the Commission for human rights and the human needs of the people of Dade County.

There is also much more that we should learn about our County government. What they say and do affects us as much as what the Congress of the United States does. Taxes-taxes-taxes- and more taxes, where will it come to a halt? Huge increases in assessments every year, when will that stop?

All of us have questions we would like to have answered in reference to our County government. Come on down with your friends and neighbors and your questions.

Admission to the Brotherhood Breakfast Forum is \$2.50 for Brotherhood members and \$3.00 for non-members. Ladies are happily welcome at all times.

ATTENTION: 5TH & 6TH GRADE PARENTS

We will begin a Cotillion Class for 5th and 6th Grade students beginning in February. Watch the Commentator for further information.

Teddi Segal, Youth Committee Chairperson

Registration for 1983 Pre-School

Beth Am Families interested in enrolling their child in our Day School Nursery Program (three year old) for Fall 1983 must put your name on our waiting list now. If your child will be three before December 1, 1983 call the school office, 665-6228, for a card to be completed so you are officially on our waiting list.

Registration begins in February and information is mailed **only** to those on our waiting.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sandi Kramer, Pre-School Director

ADULT CHOIR PRESENTS CHANUKAH FESTIVAL AT SERVICE, DECEMBER 17th, 8:15 P.M.

The Adult Choir of Temple Beth Am, directed by Selma Baumgard, will present its annual Chanukah Song Festival at the Friday evening service, December 17th, at 8:15 p.m.

As a vehicle for the music, Rabbi Herbert Baumgard has written an original Chanukah narration which tells the story of the first Chanukah. Parts of the decor of the Sanctuary are based on the story of Chanukah, including the Temple's unusual Menorahs and the inscription on the Temple Ark.

Music to be sung includes: "Creation" by Willie Richer, "The Festival Song" (Shir ha-Chag), arranged by Abraham Binder. "In The Days of the Maccabees", from Judas Maccabeus by Handel; and the traditional folk-songs, "Chanukah Oh Chanukah", (plus a parody on that song), "Mi Y'mallel" (Who Can Retell?); "Hannerot Hallalu" (These Candles We Kindle), and others.

For this service the choir will come down and sing on the Altar.

COLLEGIAN BRUNCH DECEMBER 26TH 11:00 A.M. IN SOCIAL HALL

The annual Beth Am Collegian Brunch will take place in the Youth Lounge on Sunday, December 26th, at 11:00 a.m. A sumptuous special brunch will be served without charge.

Collegians of all ages are invited to share in an informal discussion with Rabbi Baumgard on any topic. This brunch is usually well attended. Come, bring your friends, and meet some of your old friends.


There will be a jukebox and ping pong also.

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR INTERVIEWS

Interviews will be held on Wednesday, December 22, 1982 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Room 101 for 1983 Beth Am Day Camp positions. If you are 16 years or older and have a love for children, musical/dramatic background, arts and crafts talent, can teach a sport, or have any skill that would enrich our camp program, please come and meet with Nancy Weinfeld, Day Camp Director. If unable to attend please call the Temple office 667-6667 and arrange for another interview date.

SOMETHING FISHY IN THE ART ROOM

The "Fish in Their Environment" paper sculptures prepared by Senior Bloc students under the guidance of Suzi Glazer and Bobbi Stein really impressed the managers at Planet Ocean. As a result, the Senior Bloc of Beth Am Day School will have an exhibit of these sculptures at Planet Ocean from January 15th to January 31st. Please make a point of visiting that marvelous attraction during those dates and see for yourself what your talented Day School students have done.



The Committee of 100

The following member family has volunteered to join "The Committee of 100" for the current year:

G. Alan and Nancy Brooks



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

JOAN'S JEMS By Joan Schwartzman

CAN A RABBI OFFICIATE AT AN INTERMARRIAGE?

(in three parts) Part One

1. WHY ARE RABBIS CONCERNED ABOUT JEWISH YOUNG PEOPLE MARRYING NON-JEWS?

The key problem is Jewish survival. It is difficult to maintain a Jewish home with Jewish values in today's chaotic world even when both parties have been raised in the Jewish faith. It becomes almost impossible when one of the parties is of a different faith.

It is difficult enough to raise Jewish children when both adults have a Jewish background. It becomes almost impossible when there is either religious conflict or indifference in the home. Children tend to move towards the point of least resistance, and most children with mixed parentage move towards the majority religion.

Jewish survival has the best chance when both parents work creatively toward the raising of Jewish children.

2. WILL BETH AM RABBIS PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERFAITH MARRIAGE?

Beth Am Rabbis, like the overwhelming majority of Rabbis, will participate in a Jewish wedding ceremony. A ceremony is Jewish when both parties say in good faith, "You are sanctified unto me according to the laws of Moses and Israel (with this ring)," and when both parties are committed to the raising of Jewish children.

Many persons, not born into the Jewish faith, come to the point when they are able to say this vow in good faith. The decision as to whether a Rabbi is free to participate in a ceremony involving one not born into Judaism is really made by that person.

A Rabbi is not a justice of the peace. He performs ceremonies of religious significance, Jewish religious significance.

3. WHAT IS THE BEST PROCEDURE FOR A JEWISH YOUNG PERSON INVOLVED WITH A NON-JEW?

We invite all couples in to see us for a discussion in an understanding atmosphere. We prefer not making a decision about a particular ceremony until after we have discussed the matter with the couple.

We never apply pressure on the non-Jew. We are not savers of souls. But we do help the couple to understand the problems of an interfaith marriage and urge upon them the resolution of their differences.

Frequently, the non-Jew has many questions about Judaism that the Jewish partner is unable to answer. Exposure to an informed Rabbi often brings about a change in the attitude of the non-Jew towards Judaism, and at the very least leads to greater understanding between the partners.

Rabbis are very much aware of the problems young people face today, and we strongly encourage the Jewish person to visit us before he/she makes a firm commitment. Our response to these discussions is strongly positive.

4. IS A MARRIAGE BETWEEN ONE BORN INTO THE JEWISH FAITH AND A CONVERT CONSIDERED AN INTERMARRIAGE?

No. The convert stands at the marriage canopy as a full Jew or Jewess.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT CONVERTS?

The Talmud teaches that a true convert is more precious to the Jewish community than one born into the faith, for the convert has made the decision voluntarily. Converts hold some of the highest positions in Beth Am. They are a boon to us.

(to be continued)

We are proud to report that our own Beth Amite Arthur Conn was a nominee for Dade County Citizen's Award at the recent award luncheon held at the Four Ambassadors Hotel. This award is sponsored by the South Dade Council of the B'nai Brith Lodges. . . . We are indeed proud of Gail Fels who has been elected vice president of the University of Chicago International Alumni Association serving all 90,000 alumni worldwide. . . . Congrats to Michael Klezmer upon his recent art showing at The Museum of Art in Ft. Lauderdale and New York. . . . Congratulations to Lorraine Cushen upon the recent marriage of her daughter Wendy to Tony Taylor. MAZEL to Andy and Keleen Schreer upon the birth of their first child Keith Daniel arriving at a healthy 7 lbs 6 ounces. Proud grandparents are Sid and Thelma Schreer. . . .

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

LISA IS HAVING A BAT MITZVAH

What's so special about Lisa's Bat Mitzvah? Here is her invitation:

"On this special day, it will be my privilege to share my Bat Mitzvah with Dahlia Glinskene. Dahlia is a 13 year old Soviet Jew who has been denied the right to practice her religion. I hope in the future Jews everywhere will be free.

Lisa"

Many other Beth American children are sharing their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs with Soviet Jews. We will talk about them in the future. If anyone wants to "twin" with other Jewish children in the Soviet Union, please contact Doris Notarius at 238-2666 for information.

Watch the Commentator every week for more information about how your congregation is involved in social issues. If you would like to become involved in Social Action, call Gail at the Temple at 667-6667.

Contemporaries Chanukah Latka Party Dec. 5th!

At the last meeting of the Contemporaries on Sunday, Dec. 5th, the coming of Chanukah was celebrated with a latka party. In addition, there was a program by Miriam Cohen, our dynamic "Judaica Shop Lady" and also Blanche Brass, attorney, who spoke on "The Art of Conversation."

It was a great afternoon!

B'nai Mitzvah Saturday December 18
Michael Benowitz, son of Mrs. Caryn Demsky and Mr. Allen Benowitz 9:15 a.m.
Dana, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Katzman
Andrew, son of Mr. and Mrs. Neal Menachem 11:15 a.m.
Danny, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Osman