

December 31, 1982

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, December 31, 1982, 8:15 p.m.
Original Creative Service by
HAVURAH MISHPAHAT AHAVAH
TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, January 1, 1983, 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

"Male Menopause" Topic at Sisterhood Meeting, January 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Remember how often you have wondered if there really is such a thing as "MALE MENOPAUSE"?

It's time to take that subject out of the closet and bring it into the light!

Come to our Sisterhood Meeting on Wednesday, January 19th at 10:00 a.m. and hear both Dr. Harry Graff, Psychologist and Dr. Peter Weissman, Endocrinologist, speak openly on this very provocative subject. Your husband will appreciate your compassion . . . and your friends will think you're a "pro" on the subject. Yes, yes . . . men are welcome, too!

Bafty Planning Winter Calendar

On Monday, January 3rd, BAFTY (Beth Am's high school youth group grades 10 - 12) will be having its first dinner meeting of the year at 6:00 p.m. in room 101. We will be planning our upcoming schedule. A special word of thanks to those who hosted BAFTY for the Chanukah Progressive Dinner. We had great hors d'ouvres at the Tiemans', fantastic salad at the Alberts', and magnificent main course at the Ruttenbergs', and a delicious dessert at Rabbi and Mrs. Goldstein's. All this made for a most enjoyable evening.

Adult Education Starts in January

The following Adult Education courses will be offered in January as per the dates below. Increase your Jewish knowledge. Enroll by filling out the form below and returning it to Rabbi Hoffman at the Temple.

MONDAY JANUARY 3 - PROF. ROBERT SANDLER
"THE WISDOM OF THE SAGES THROUGHOUT THE AGES"

TUESDAY JANUARY 4 - PROF. DON MICHELSON
"COMPARATIVE RELIGION: JUDAISM CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM"

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5 - RABBI MORTON HOFFMAN
"JOSEPH AND ESTHER AND JONAH AND RUTH - SOME BIBLE TEXTS"

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5 - MRS. LENORE KIPPER
"HEBREW AND THE HAGADDAH - ENRICHING THE SEDER"

All the above courses will run for five consecutive weeks.
Mail to Temple Beth Am, 5950 N. Kendall Drive, Miami, FL 33156

I wish to enroll in the following courses:

- PROF. SANDLER - WISDOM OF THE SAGES
- PROF. MICHELSON - COMPARATIVE RELIGION
- RABBI HOFFMAN - JOSEPH AND ESTHER, ETC.
- MRS. KIPPER - HEBREW AND HAGADDAH

NAME: _____

PLEASE PRINT

YOU ARE INVITED TO BETH AM'S LECTURE SERIES

•••••

"WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE"

Tuesday, January 11 8:00 P.M.

The Author of this best-selling book speaks in the Sanctuary. Rabbi Harold S. Kushner is Rabbi of Temple Israel of Natick, Mass. He has a doctoral degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary and has lectured at Clark University. He is the editor of Conservative Judaism, a magazine. His previous book "When Children Ask About God".

Co-sponsored by the South Dade Midrasha in cooperation with the Central Agency for Jewish Education. Free to Beth Am members. \$3 to others. Tickets at the door for non-members. Beth Am tickets at the Temple office or after services in the Judaica Shop.

THE JEWS OF EUROPE - Forty Years After Hitler

Friday, January 14 8:15 P.M.

Rabbi Paul Steinberg, Dean of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York will speak.

Rabbi Steinberg has recently returned from a visit to Prague and other cities in Europe. He has a doctorate in educational psychology and serves as Dean of the Glueck School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. He is Professor of Education at the HUC-JIR as well.

HOW NEW INFORMATION HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE BETTER

Friday, January 28 8:15 P.M.

Dr. Harry Orlinsky, perhaps the outstanding Jewish Bible scholar in the world today; Editor-in-Chief of the new translation of the Bible, Jewish Publication Society; Professor of Bible HUC-JIR; author of Essays in Biblical Culture and Bible Translation, and Understanding the Bible Through History and Archaeology.

ADULT BASKETBALL AT BETH AM

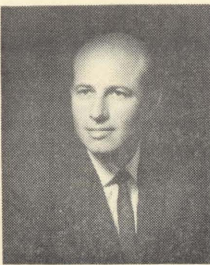
Beginning Wednesday night, February 2, 1983, Beth Am will have Adult Basketball in our Gym. This will continue every Wednesday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For further information, call Coordinators Cliff Feldman at his office: 593-1800, or Alan Marks in the evening at 235-7491.

WIN A FREE TRIP TO NEW YORK

Can you write music? If you can and you are in 9 - 12 grades, try your hand at an original song. The song must reflect a Jewish theme and can be in Hebrew or in English. All entries must be in cassette form and in Rabbi Herbert Baumgard's office by January 15, 1983.

News From Calabash

During Chanukah, Calabash, Beth Am's singles group for people 22 - 33, had a great party at Kings Creek. To all those who helped in preparation, our thanks. Be sure to watch your mail and the Commentator for our January events.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY
**CAN A RABBI OFFICIATE
 AT AN INTERMARRIAGE?**
(in three parts)
 Part Three

(all three parts are available at our office)

12. WHEN RABBIS REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN A WEDDING CEREMONY, AREN'T THEY REJECTING THE YOUNG PEOPLE?

As we have indicated in our prior discussion (questions 8, 9), we welcome intermarried couples into our Temple (that's not rejecting them); we will name their children in the Temple (if the parents are committing the child to the covenant of Judaism); and we are ready at any time to help the non-Jew to understand more about Judaism. As for the marriage ceremony, it is not really the Rabbi who decides whether or not he is able to participate. It is the non-Jew himself/herself.

When the person not born into the Jewish religion is able to say the marriage vow in good faith, the Rabbi is able to participate in good conscience. The vow, previously described, is, "You are sanctified unto me according to the laws of Moses and Israel". To make that vow in good faith, the person must know something about the laws of Moses and Israel, and he is in effect, committing himself to the raising of Jewish children in a Jewish home. Again, it is the person not born into the faith who makes the decision as to whether a Jewish marriage ceremony is possible. Because the Rabbi explains the situation to the couple to provide the couple with the opportunity to share a Jewish ceremony does not mean that he is the one who excludes them from the ceremony.

Playing the Game

Some couples are not interested in a realistic approach to the wedding ceremony, however. They may not perceive that marriage is different from the commonly accepted status of living together without any commitments. Such a couple may say to themselves (or to the Rabbi), why is all this important? Let's play the game. Let's pretend that we mean what the words say, even if we don't mean them at all. Such a couple will urge the Rabbi to play the game with them.

It is not uncommon today for parents to line-up with their child in urging the Rabbi to play the game of "Let's pretend". "If you don't get the couple angry", a parent will say to the Rabbi, "maybe in time they will want to be Jewish". Occasionally, a person bearing the title of Rabbi, ordained or not, will play this cosmetic game, but what purpose is really served? Aren't the young people encouraged by such a ceremony to believe that **EVEN THE VOWS OF A WEDDING CEREMONY ARE A GAME** to which little credence has to be given?

A Friend Tells It Like It Is

No one knows better than a Rabbi today about what is going on with young people. No one knows better than we about the problems of finding any kind of mate (much less a Jewish one) in the open sex scene. We can see quite clearly that many of our young people will probably not be able to marry ever. Therefore, when a young Jew comes to us with a prospective mate, we are filled with sympathy, irrespective of whom the mate's mother is. Young people will find an understanding friend in most Rabbis who are anxious to meet with and counsel with them (perhaps even cry with them).

"Wit a Wittle Bit of Bucks"

It's the end of the year and the time for paying bills - for the Temple as well as for you. If you have an extra buck or two lying around, we could sure use it. Besides, you can deduct it from your income tax. You may want to join the Committee of 100, or you may want to add \$100 to your Fair Share Dues, or you may want to become a Guardian, or just send us those pennies you have been saving in the pushki for the rainy day that never came.

"Wit a wittle bit of bucks", we can get to the Temple's bills - on time!

Beth Am Participates in Pilot Exchange Program

On November 30, Vivien Kogut arrived from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She is 14 years old and will be staying with Terry and Les Freedman and their daughter Amy. Vivien is the first participant in the Union of American Hebrew Congregations South American Exchange Program. Vivien will attend Sunset High with Amy while in Miami as well as participate in Monday Night School and other youth activities.

Vivien and her family are very involved in their synagogue. She had her Bat Mitzvah last year, and her father serves as the vice president of their congregation.

The congregation will have a chance to meet Vivien at Friday evening services December 24th.

Vivien will be staying until the first of the year, and Amy Freedman expects to visit Vivien this summer.

**BETH AM DAY SCHOOL ANNUAL RAFFLE
 FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

sponsored by PATIO

Win a Weekend for Two in Paradise Island
 airfare included

Many Other Terrific Prizes

Raffle Books Available in
 Day School Office After January 3rd

\$1.00 per donation

12 tickets per book for \$10.00

B'Nai Mitzvah, Friday, December 31

8:15 p.m.



Jill Anne, Daughter of
 Dr. and Mrs. Terry Reisman



Sandra, daughter of
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven Tiktin

Saturday, January 1
 11:15 a.m.



Andrew, son of
 Dr. and Mrs. A. Jose Wenger