



FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE, Friday, Feb. 5, 1982, 7:30 p.m.
RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD
"GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE CHERRY TREE"
TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, February 6, 1982, 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

Adult Education Courses Break All Records

With some 30 people enrolled in Prof. Sandler's course on "Basic Concepts in Jewish Thought", and well over 40 enrolled in Dr. Michelson's Jewish history course on "The Exodus and the Struggle for Nationhood", membership participation in the great mitzvah of lifelong Jewish study is higher than it has been in many years.

The Basic Concepts course meets on Monday evenings at 7:30 and the Jewish History course meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:30, both in the Youth Lounge. It is never too late to enroll.

In addition, Hebrew language for adults is being taught by Mrs. Lenore Kipper on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 in Room 24 of the Teenage Building. And "Israeli Dance for Everyone", under the leadership of Shira Baumgard is taking place on Thursday evenings in the Social Hall at 7:30 P.M. These courses, too, are open to those who wish to enter at any time.

Please follow the "Commentator" for details concerning the second session of our Winter Term which will begin on Monday evening, February 22.

Temple Beth Am to Plant Grove in Israel

We are very excited about an opportunity which has opened up for us as one of the largest Reform temples in the United States to plant a Beth Am Grove within the Union of American Hebrew Congregations Forest in Israel.

The annual Jewish National Fund tree planting drive is now under way in our religious school and in the Beth Am Day School. Your children, if they plant only one tree per capita, could plant a grove consisting of one thousand trees within the current drive. In case we should not plant 1,000 trees this year, we have three years in which to achieve it. It therefore should be well within our reach.

This drive for a Beth Am Grove is being coordinated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Jewish National Fund which work together on these projects.

Each tree costs \$5. When your child asks you to help plant a tree please respond as generously as you are able to.

Beth Americans, New Generation Sing at Gusman Hall

On Feb. 6th, the Beth Americans, New Generation will join in a salute to America with the Miami Boy's Choir and Children's Choir at Gusman Hall. Selections include "Tomorrow," "Sing-a-Song," and three medleys from "The Music Man."

Be A Total Woman!

Why be known as someone's "Better-Half", when you can Be a Total Woman!

Come to Sisterhood's Workshop on the 4th Wednesday of March and April and hear our stimulating speakers discuss the ROLE of the WOMAN in today's society.

Our May 19th session will be 'capped' by a Mother-Daughter Luncheon.

Watch future bulletins for these announcements - and please plan to attend!

Another Success for "A New Beginning"

January 10th was a lovely "Winter Holiday" evening for "A New Beginning." The dance was enjoyed by super singles (30 to 54 1/2) who danced, had our lovely buffet, drank liquid refreshments, made friends and had a total evening in our beautifully decorated room. The theme was "Winter Holiday." Yes, another success for "A New Beginning."

Our next social will be on Sunday, February 14th - our theme, "Be My Valentine." Of course, we know it will be enjoyed by all - so please tell your single friends (30 to 54 1/2) about the date, time (7:30) and place (Temple Social Hall). We would love to see all of them here. Please watch the Commentator for further details, or call the Temple Office at 667-6667.

"A New Beginning" will be under new leadership as of Feb. 1st. Norman Scheinin, Bernice Anapol and Ellyn Elkin will now be co-leaders of our successful group. I have enjoyed and grown with the steering committee and each social. I have watched a small idea become the best single scene in town, and "A New Beginning" for many people. We now have a mailing list of 1,100 and average 200 at a social. They come from Dade and Broward Counties. We receive phone calls every week asking when our next social is and what can be done to help. I want to thank thirty wonderful men and women who met at my home every Thursday night to plan the fantastic socials, and who became a family. Everyone works very hard to make each social the huge success they have been for one year. I love each and every one of you. I will stay on as liaison and coordinator between the group and the Temple.

The reason for new leadership is that I will no longer be a single lady. I am getting married. May I again thank the Temple and all the office staff for all the time, help and cooperation they have given me. I know this will continue. I truly love each and every one of you.

If you as a single would like to work and be on the steering committee and help keep "A New Beginning" successful, call Rhoda at the Temple Office (667-6667) and leave your name and phone number. We will get in touch with you.

Syd Efronson

TRADITION

A traditional Shabbat Dinner is being offered by the Contemporaries of Temple Beth Am on Friday, February 19th, at 6 P.M. in the Social Hall, for the nominal cost of \$7.00 for members - \$8.00 for others. Reservations are taken on a first come basis! Call Ann Berent 667-9449 or Sara Wedner 595-5054. Dinner will be followed by an original service created by the Contemporaries under the chairmanship of Dr. Sam Goldstein. It is going to be an evening worthy of your presence. (Even Tevya would approve - - TRADITION.

!! SUPER SPRING ART AUCTION !!

Sisterhood is working on their Super Spring Art Auction.

You won't want to miss it - so hold open March 28, and "COME ON OUT AND SPRING INTO ACTION AT OUR SUPER AUCTION!!!



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Deepening Your Jewishness

If a religion is to survive, its adherents must have commonly accepted ways of deepening their attachments to the faith. Judaism is especially rich in these avenues of enrichment -Sabbath rituals, Holiday observances, Religious Services, and textual study. In modern times, Jews tend to be more selective as to which of these avenues they choose to follow; but one thing is certain, if a modern Jew does not follow one of these avenues, at least, in some significant depth, he or she will not be a vehicle for the survival of our people. An ignorant Jew is the more easily caught up in the whirlpool of assimilation.

Beth Am offers many different ways in which a Jew might come closer to his heritage. Adult Ed classes are one way. Religious Services are another. Many Beth Amites come regularly to our well attended Friday Evening services. Few of you come to the Saturday morning service. I always wonder why.

The Saturday morning service is our most meaningful service. Every Saturday we read from the Torah, interpret it, and comment upon it. If one attended the Saturday morning service regularly, he would become familiar with the Torah and with the Bible. He would learn about Abraham, Moses, Joseph, David, Solomon, and the great prophets. He would follow Jewish history from Chaldea to Canaan to Egypt and back to Canaan and thence to Babylonia. He would review with us the details of the moral law beginning with the Ten Commandments and proceeding through the exalted laws in Leviticus and the modernistic pronouncements of the prophets. Any person who attends our Saturday morning service with regularity would deepen his Jewishness profoundly.

Of course, you might say, "Rabbi, I don't need to come to the service to hear the public reading of the Torah. I can pick up my Bible and follow the weekly cycle of readings." Of course you can. But do you? And do you get the extra-biblical commentaries of one trained in the study of the ancient civilizations.

Saturday morning is the time we get many outside visitors to our Temple, and invariably I have people say to me, "Rabbi, I come from Oshkosh, and my Rabbi doesn't translate the Torah as he reads it, and we don't get the kind of commentary you give". Perhaps this is because I studied four years beyond my rabbinical ordination at Columbia University in the Study of ancient semitic cultures. In my opinion, what I do on Saturday morning is what I do best. It is what I get the most pleasure from, and yet, the members of my congregation do not expose themselves to this best that I have to offer. It is frustrating.

It has been the tradition in Judaism for thousands of years to read the "parasha" of the week on Saturday mornings. This is a portion of the Torah read on a pre-arranged basis each week, until the entire Torah is completed. When a Jew reads the "parasha" each Saturday (and hopefully discusses it with a companion), he deepens his Jewish experience. He becomes a Jew more profoundly. It matters not how many times one reads this cycle of readings. Each time one reads a particular "parasha", he learns something new; he discovers something he missed last time. Of course, one learns more (or should) when the "parasha" is discussed by the Rabbi.

Come visit me on Shabbat mornings. You'll grow to love it. I do.

The regular Sabbath Service is 11:15 A.M. Sometimes we have an extra service at 9:15 A.M. The Associate Rabbi interprets the Torah at the earlier service.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut of Toronto Speaks at Beth Am Friday, March 12th



The Friday Night Guest Lecture Series continues with Dr. Gunther Plaut of Toronto appearing on Friday, March 12th, at the 8:15 Service. Rabbi Plaut is primarily responsible for the new column entitled, "The Torah:: A Modern Commentary", published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. He will be speaking on the theme, "Finding Torah Exciting - a Voyage of Rediscovery". Rabbi Plaut's visit to our congregation is made possible by a gift from Ethel Light in memory of George Light.

Dr. Plaut is Rabbi Emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, a congregation which he now serves as Senior Scholar. Educated in Germany, he graduated from law school and received his earned doctorate at the University of Berlin in 1934. In 1935 he immigrated to the United States and was ordained as Rabbi at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, in 1939. Rabbi Plaut was National President of the Canadian Jewish Congress from 1977 - 1980. He is currently Vice-President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Rabbi Plaut, an ardent sportsman, is the author of many books including a number of short stories, as well as scholarly material. He is well known as a gifted lecturer, and we are fortunate to have him speak at our congregation.

News from BAFTY

Thanks to all the hardworking members of BAFTY, our first creative service of the New Year was a huige success! Don't forget General Dinner Meetings, the first Monday night of the month. There will be an all day general Conclave at Temple Israel, February 6, AND we have already begun to plan our exciting dance which will be February 27 at the temple. Save the date!

Ninth Grade Group Plans For Spring

The Board and Officers of the Ninth Grade Youth Group met last week to discuss the calendar for this spring. We are planning all kinds of exciting events, including monthly general dinner meetings. Keep your eyes peeled for news in the Commentator! If you have any questions call Andy Reisman (279-4443).

Camp Coleman has a few Vacancies Needs Doctors and Nurses

Camp Coleman is rapidly approaching capacity for children between the ages of 8-15years this coming summer. At present there are still spaces available in the first 4 week session (June 20 - July 18) for boys and girls. Applications are available in the Temple office or from the Miami office - 379-4553. Camp Coleman has faculty positions available for registered nurses, for either 4 weeks or 8 weeks employment. Also, there are faculty positions available for doctors for either 1 or 2 week employment between July 18 and August 8. Interested nurses and doctors can call or write Allan F. Solomon, 119 E. Flagler St., Suite 238, Miami, Fl. 33131.

B'Nai Mitzvah



Saturday, February 6, 1981

11:15 a.m.

Dean, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Burton Dubbin