

January 15, 1982

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, January 15, 1982, 8:30 p.m.
RABBI HERBERT BAUMGARD
"LEARNING TO GIVE"
TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, January 16, 1982, 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

Nominations Open for Temple Officers & Board

Dr. William Silver, Chairman of the Temple Nominating Committee has issued a call for nominations to serve as an Officer of the Temple or to serve on the Board of Directors. Any Temple member, willing to serve is eligible. Please submit nominations, in writing, to the Temple office, attention Dr. William Silver.

The nominating Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, February 9th. Please submit names of those who truly want to get involved in the planning and governance of Temple.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES START AT 8:15 P.M. AS OF FEBRUARY 12TH

We have had many requests to start our services a little bit earlier. Accordingly, as of February 12, 1982, religious services will start at 8:15 p.m. This is fifteen minutes earlier than usual. The regular first Friday of the month Family Worship Service will continue to start at 7:30 p.m.

It's Time to Think of the Summer of '82

Plans are under way for the Temple Beth Am Summer Camp. Mike Wexler, Chairman of our Summer Program, is happy to announce that our Summer Camp will start this year on Monday, June 21st. The fee schedule is essentially the same as last year. There has been a slight increase in fees to cover salary increase due our staff but the increases are minimal.

SPECIAL FEES FOR EARLY REGISTRATION

As we did last year we are offering special discounts to early registrants. If you register before March 31st there is a discount of approximately 10% in the cost. We have found this results in a sizeable saving in our cost of operation because it allows us to purchase supplies and hire the staff in the proper way. This saving will be passed on to early registrants.

NANCY WEINFELD DIRECTOR

Once again, Nancy Weinfeld will serve as our Camp Director. Nancy has served in this capacity for two years and has run quite a successful program during the Summers of 1980 and 1981. Much of last year's staff will be returning with an additional year of training and maturity. Nancy reports that she has several new and innovative plans for the coming year.

The Camp brochure, outlining our plans and fees for 1982, will be in the mail shortly. Watch for it and register early for a substantial saving.

"Learning How To Give" Rabbi's Sermon On UJA Sabbath, Friday, Jan. 15th

Beth Am will join with congregations around the nation in celebrating United Jewish Appeal Sabbath. Rabbi Baumgard will speak on the theme, 'Learning How To Give' at the Friday service at 8:30 p.m. Members are reminded that Sunday, January 17th is Super Sunday and Federation is looking for people to work the phones and to help acquire gifts. This is a task for all Jews.

Film on Jerusalem to be Shown Jan. 15th

On Friday evening, January 15th, following the regular erev Shabbat service, a film "Jerusalem, City of Peace" will be shown in Room 101.

This film is made available to us by the Zionist Organization of America. Accompanying the film will be Dr. Michael Leinwand, Southeast Regional Director of the ZOA, who will answer questions on the film and problems of American foreign policy in the Middle East.

For all of our members including those who have been to Jerusalem and those who have not yet had the privilege, this beautifully photographed film will be an inspiring experience.

Anti-Defamation League Speaker at Congregational Breakfast Jan. 17th

The B'nai Brith Anti-Defamation League has recently reported that anti-Semitism is again on the rise in the U.S. Arab propaganda campaigns, the new religious right, book suppression and TV suppression groups, and others, are attempting to point the finger of guilt toward the Jews of this country as one of the contributing causes of our problems as they see it. Their campaigns are quite direct. Such public statements of recent day as "the Jews control television" or that "God does not hear the prayers of Jews" underline the thinking of today's active anti-Semites. How are we to do battle against these groups since they are very well financed? These thoughts are the basis of our next Brotherhood Breakfast Forum on Jan. 17th at 9:30 a.m. in the Temple Youth Lounge. The speaker at this forum will be "MR. SCOTT SPEIGELSTEIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, who will speak on the subject of THE NEW FACES OF ANTI-SEMITISM. This should be a must on your calendar. Please bring along your friends and neighbors.

Admission to this all-you-can-eat bagels and lox breakfast is \$2 for Brotherhood members and \$2.50 for non-members.




Guardians of Beth Am

Elliot and Jeanne Dinnerstein

Marvin and Betty Florman

Ethel Light



The Committee of 100

The following members have volunteered to join "The Committee of 100" for the 1981-82 year.

An Anonymous Family
Ellis and Karen Ashkenazi



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Why Can't Jews Accept Jesus?

Recently a young Catholic lady was very upset with me because I wouldn't co-officiate at a wedding with a priest. She said to me with great feeling, "What's so different about Judaism and Christianity? Aren't they really almost the same?" Now, no one is more active in the interfaith community than I. I have great sympathy for Christians and have many wonderful Christian friends with whom I share much of my time. Nonetheless, I can see profound differences between Judaism and Christianity, and my Christian minister friends would agree with me. In other words, all of us would disagree with this young lady.

The crux of Christianity is that God took human form in the person of Jesus, and it is through belief in Jesus that we are able to reach God. Judaism is unalterably opposed to the notion that any one human could be God. Our opposition as Jews is based on both personal and social grounds. On personal grounds, our religion teaches that *all* humans (non-Jews too), are created "in the image of God." This implies that no individual is born with a greater potential to be godlike than any other human. Of course, some of us fulfill that potential better than others. Some of us grow emotionally, intellectually, and ethically many times more than others, but the most advanced human cannot achieve full godliness.

Christianity has a doctrine which mitigates against this Jewish belief in the perfectability of humankind. Christianity teaches that we are all born in "original" sin (the result of Adam's sin), and that we are all condemned to Hell unless we believe that Jesus died for our sins. Judaism is strongly opposed to the doctrine of original sin. We believe that each child is born pure, irrespective of Adam's sin or the sins of the parents. Thus, we place much greater emphasis on what the child does with its own life and on what society does by way of shaping the child's future. For us the child's future is not pre-ordained.

The strong humanist thrust in modern times has its origins in Judaism. It is our religion which first developed the concept, and which carried it alone through all the centuries, that human beings had tremendous potential. Because others speak of human worth today is no reason for those who created the idea to abandon it to newcomers. We Jews are still its most reliable protagonists.

The social grounds for Jewish opposition to the idea that one man became God and that we can get to God only through him is revealed in a study of Jewish history and Jewish social development. All of the nations of the ancient near-east held that their king was God revealed. Pharaoh of Egypt was considered to be a god. The official title of the King of Syria was "Ben Haddad, Son of Haddad the storm god." The Israelites alone of all the nations insisted that their king was not divine. He was human like other humans AND HE WAS SUBJECT TO THE LIMITS OF THE LAW like all other humans. The kings of other nations could do whatever they wished. Their wish was a divine command. The king of Israel could not do as he wished; his personal conduct was controlled by law, and he could not violate the human rights of his subjects. The chief function of the Hebrew prophets was to see that the king did not become a dictator. In other words, the longtime Jewish opposition to the very old idea that one man could become God is rooted in our love for democracy. We have opposed the notion that one man could be God in order to protect the social rights of the masses.

There is an inherent danger in the teaching that one man can be divine while others must look to their salvation through him alone. The idea can be easily adapted to political uses and in the history of Christianity this was done when the Church proclaimed that it was Jesus's sole representative on earth and it had the right to rule both the religious and secular realm. In the Middle Ages, the Church took on the divine aura and became the dictator. When Luther (the founder of Protestantism) challenged the Church's right to be the sole interpreter of the divine will, the

NEWS FROM BAFTY

Eight of our members attended the winter Regionals in Jacksonville over vacation. Each had a great time and learned and shared with other youth group members in our region. For those people working on our Creative Service, there will be an important meeting Sunday, January 10, at 12:00 noon in Rabbi Goldstein's office. If you want to participate in the exciting service be at this meeting!

BAFTY TO PARTICIPATE IN SUPER SUNDAY EFFORT

On January 17, the date of Super Sunday, BAFTY will be helping man phones at Temple Israel. This is an important community effort. If you would like to help out please call Rabbi Goldstein at 667-6667. Don't forget BAFTY'S first CREATIVE SERVICE of the year, January 22 at 8:30. This should prove to be an exceptionally meaningful service.

Joan's Jems by Joan Schwartzman

Kudos to Scott Silver, son of Marcia and Bill, who has been elected to the Hall of Fame at the University of Florida. Scott, by the way, will graduate Law School soon!! Mazel tov to Mary Ellen Cohen, daughter of Anita Cohen, upon her engagement to Dr. Allen Kaufman. The young couple plan a spring wedding. We are happy to announce the engagement of Beth, daughter of Al and Rita Trilling, to Marc Steel. They plan a summer wedding.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Judith Pearlson, daughter of Ray and Marge, to Bennett Bramson

Sharla Gill, daughter of Lou and Helen, to Louis Krauss

Carrie Freedman, daughter of Stanton and Elaine, to Robert Heimann

Matha Singer to Sheldon Sklar

Meridith Leshaw, daughter of Ruth and Jay, to Carlos Wolf

Emily Leibert, daughter of Al and Jean, to James Bartley

Areta Adler to Jeffrey Kaufman

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, January 16
11:15 a.m.



Debra, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. James Lewis



Laurie, daughter of
Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Grand

masses in Germany interpreted his challenge to have political implications as well, and they rose up against their autocratic secular rulers. Unfortunately, Luther turned on the masses and supported the authoritarian rulers of Germany.

Modern stress on human potential and on democracy has its roots in the Jewish teaching that all humans are born in the image of God (not in sin) and the teaching that one person could not be God (above the law). It is precisely these teachings that differentiate Judaism from Christianity. By seeking to preserve Judaism and the Jewish people (The bearers of Judaism), Jew not only preserve this difference but do a profound service for all humankind.