

January 22, 1982

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, January 22, 1982, 8:30 p.m.  
BAFTY CREATIVE SERVICE  
"ISRAEL: ITS PLACE IN OUR LIVES"  
TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, January 23, 1982, 11:15 a.m.

# Beth Am Commentator

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## **"GREAT JEWISH DILEMMAS"** *Subject of Talk by Al Vorspan At Sabbath Service January 29th*

Albert Vorspan, Vice-President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, will be the guest speaker at Beth Am on Friday evening, January 29th at the 8:30 P.M. Service. Mr. Vorspan will speak on the topic, "Great Jewish Debates and Dilemmas," which incidentally is the title of his most recent book.

Perhaps the most gifted speaker to grace our pulpit in past years, Mr. Vorspan for many years supervised the Social Action Commission of the UAHC, and most of his books are in the area of social justice (Justice and Judaism, Jewish Values and Social Crisis, Searching the Prophets for Values). Mr. Vorspan is quite a humorist, however, and such books as "My Rabbi Doesn't Make House Calls" have sold very well.

Those who heard Mr. Vorspan here several years ago are anxiously awaiting his visit.

## **Menorah Contest Winners**

**Grand Prize - Leigh & Alison Stieglitz**  
(Pictured Below)



## **More Menorah Contest Winners**



(See Page 3)

## **BAFTY CREATIVE SERVICE THIS FRIDAY**

This Friday evening, January 22, BAFTY (our senior youth group) will conduct the Friday evening service. The theme of this much anticipated creative service will be "Israel: Its Place In Our Lives." The members of BAFTY have been working hard, writing creative prayers and planning some new and exciting music. Don't miss this exciting and inspirational service! Following the service, there will be a special Oneg Shabbat for members of BAFTY at the home of our vice-president, Melissa Smith. Her address is 10523 S.W. 120 St.

## **Temple Receives Award From Black History Group**

The Black Archives History and Research Foundation of South Florida recently held a conference at which awards were presented to various individuals and institutions for help they have given to the History Foundation and to black people in our area. Temple Beth Am was the only religious institution to be presented with an award. Former President Dr. William Silver received the award in behalf of the congregation in ceremonies held at Reflections on the Bay on December 3rd.

The award is based on a contribution made by Beth Am through the Rabbi's Fund, which made possible the printing of the history of blacks in South Florida in a journal published by the National Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

## **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.



*Pictured above is Israeli Prime Minister Begin shaking hands with our own Rabbi Baumgard. The occasion was a press meeting of the Synagogue Council of America of which Rabbi Baumgard is a vice-president. President Rabbi Wurtzberger looks on from the left.*



## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

82

### Inter-Marriage and Divorce

The question of inter-marriage is very complex today because of the great mobility of our youngsters, the delaying of marriage due to career pursuit, and the open sex scene. It takes a very dedicated young person to choose a Jewish mate in the modern environment.

Some of our young people claim they wish to choose a Jewish mate, but for one reason or another the Jewish mate doesn't come along, therefore they marry a person who asks them or whomsoever is at hand. We have discussed in this column many times our position in this matter: **all things being equal**, two Jews have the better chance of raising positively identified Jewish children; there are some magnificent converts who do succeed in raising positively identified Jewish children; there are some less than fully committed converts whose children are confused as to their identity. Where the non-Jewish spouse does not commit himself or herself to raising Jewish children, the children are usually quite confused in the area of religion and most frequently are unhappy with their life in general.

A recent court case stressed the kind of problem children are faced with in an inter-marriage where both parents are not committed to one religion. The case of *Schwartzman vs. Schwartzman* involves a Catholic woman who officially converted to Judaism. When she divorced her husband, four children later, and married a Catholic, she took her children into the Catholic church. The Jewish husband sued his wife for violating a marriage contract. There being no written evidence of the woman's promise to raise her children as Jews, the court ruled for the wife. Nobody ruled for the children. Initially raised as Jews, they are now being raised as Catholics. Switch a button and switch a child's religion.

I know of a similar local situation. The mother was converted from Catholicism to Judaism. Her young child became seriously ill. She took the child to the Church to be baptized. In a crisis, people tend to revert to the religion of their childhood. (This is certainly not true of genuine converts who are a great asset to our people). The point is that even conversion does not necessarily solve the problem.

Beth Am has many genuine converts amongst its members. Some of them are our most committed and active workers. They are a delight to us. They strengthen us. On the other hand, it is still **generally** true that we have a better chance of having committed Jewish children when both parents have been meaningfully raised in the Jewish faith.

Next week, we'll talk about Jewish men who urge their Christian wife to convert and then make it difficult for them to practice Judaism.

### Beth Am Men's Tennis Tournament, Jan. 30 & Feb. 6 REDLAND RACQUET CLUB

18100 S.W. 248 St. - (30 minutes from Beth Am)

There will be a B, C and D Division - Trophies to Winners of each Division - Entry Fee, \$7.50 and one can of balls pays for Trophies - Bar-B-Que for player and one guest on day of finals - Extra guest \$3.75 each.

Call 247-7131 Days — 235-0519 Evenings for application and complete information sheet on Tournament - **Marvin Schild, Tournament Director**

### Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date Book Open

Attention all parents of children who were born in 1974. The reservation book for Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates is now open for the years 1982 thru 1987. If you have not made a date for your child, do so now. Dates are on a first come first served basis. Come in to the office or call Joan Schwartzman at 667-6667.

## BAFTY Calendar of Events Spring 1982

- Jan. 16 BOFTY (Boca Raton) Beach Party
- Jan. 17 Super Sunday (BAFTY mans phones - helps with general effort)
- Jan. 18 6:00 p.m. Service participants meeting
- Jan. 21 Afternoon and evening Service rehearsal
- Jan. 22 8:30 p.m. BAFTY Creative Service
- Jan. 23 BAFTY to attend (and help) Troubador Skating Party
- Feb. 1 6:00 p.m. General Dinner Meeting
- Feb. 6 Greater Miami Federation of Temple Youth (GMFTY) General all day Conclave - Temple Sinai, North Miami
- Feb. 8 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- Feb. 12-13 Study Kallah - Daytona Beach
- Feb. 20 12:00 Skating Party (meet at Temple)
- March 1 6:00 p.m. General Dinner Meeting
- March 8 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- March 12-13 District Convention - Temple Israel, Miami
- March 29 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- April 3 Sports Conclave (GMFTY - other youth groups invited to participate) Beth Am
- April 12 6:00 p.m. General Dinner Meeting, Nomination of officers for 1982-83
- April 21 6:00 p.m. Meeting to discuss spring dance
- April 24 Spring Dance
- April 26 6:00 p.m. General Meeting - ELECTIONS
- May 1 Party for outgoing and new officers
- May 10 6:00 p.m. Last General Meeting
- May 16 Parents and Students Picnic
- May 22 BAFTY Year-end Banquet and installation of new members

## NEWS FROM E.G.Y.G.

On January 23, the Eighth Grade Youth Group will join with the Beth Americans for a skating party at Kendall Skating Center. The groups will meet at the Skating Center at 5:15 and skate until 7:15. The cost is \$3.00. For more information call David Schwartz at 595-0724.

### 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.

## SCOUTING

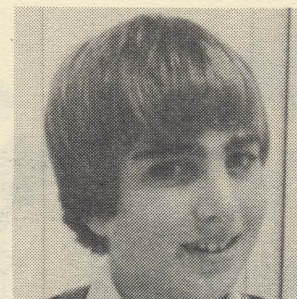
Temple Beth Am Brotherhood will help to activate the Boy Scout Troop formally at the Temple. Boys and their fathers, if interested, contact Fred Stuart at 271-5611 after 6:30 p.m.

*B'Nai Mitzvah*

Saturday, January 23  
11:15 a.m.



Carter, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Dennis Brod



Steven, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Randolph McKean