



January 29, 1982

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, January 29, 1982, 8:30 p.m.  
**AL VORSPAN, VICE PRES. OF U.A.H.C.**  
**"GREAT JEWISH DILEMMAS"**  
 Adult Choir Will Sing Under the Direction of Selma Baumgard  
 TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, January 30, 1982, 11:15 a.m.

# Beth Am Commentator

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

**DEADLINE FOR  
 CAMP COLEMAN SCHOLARSHIPS  
 IS NOW**

## Calendar for February, 1982

- Dancer-Cize ..... Mon., Feb. 1, 9 a.m., Room 101
- Adult Education ..... Mon., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m., Youth Lounge  
 ("Basic Jewish Concepts" - Prof. R. Sandler)
- BAFTY Dinner Meeting ..... Mon., Feb. 1, 6 p.m., Social Hall
- Adult Education ..... Tue., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., Youth Lounge  
 ("Jewish History" - Prof. D. Michelson)
- Adult Education ..... Wed., Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., Room 24  
 (Hebrew - Lenore Kipper)
- Dancer-Cize ..... Thurs., Feb. 4, 9 a.m., Room 101
- Israeli Dancing ..... Thurs., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Social Hall
- Family Worship Service ..... Fri., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Basic Judaism Class ..... Fri., Feb. 5, 8:30 p.m., Room 28
- Torah Service ..... Sat., Feb. 6, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary
- Contemporaries ..... Sun., Feb. 7, 1:00 p.m., Youth Lounge
- Art Opening ..... Sun., Feb. 7, 2 p.m., Sanctuary Foyer
- Dancer-Cize ..... Mon., Feb. 8, 9 a.m., Room 101
- BAFTY Board Meeting ..... Mon., Feb. 8, 6 p.m., Social Hall
- Adult Education ..... Mon., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., Youth Lounge  
 ("Basic Jewish Concepts" - Prof. R. Sandler)
- Adult Education ..... Tue., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m., Youth Lounge  
 ("Jewish History" - Prof. D. Michelson)
- P.A.T.I.O. Meeting ..... Wed., Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m., Room 101
- Adult Education ..... Wed., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Room 24  
 (Hebrew - Lenore Kipper)
- Dancer-Fize ..... Thurs., Feb. 11, 9 a.m., Room 101
- Israeli Dancing ..... Thurs., Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., Social Hall
- Religious School Shabbat Dinner .. Fri., Feb. 12, 6 p.m., Youth Lounge
- Basic Judaism Class ..... Fri., Feb. 12, 7:15 p.m., Room 28
- Religious Service ..... Fri., Feb. 12, 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary
- Torah Service ..... Sat., Feb. 13, 9:15 & 11:15, Sanctuary
- "A New Beginning" ..... Sun., Feb. 14, 7 p.m., Social Hall
- Dancer-Cize ..... Mon., Feb. 15, 9 a.m., Room 101
- Temple Board Meeting ..... Tue., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., Room 101
- Dancer-Cize ..... Thurs., Feb. 18, 9 a.m., Room 101
- Israeli Dancing ..... Thurs., Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., Social Hall
- Contemporaries Shabbat Dinner ..... Fri., Feb. 19, 6 p.m., Social Hall
- Basic Judaism Class ..... Fri., Feb. 19, 7:15 p.m., Room 28
- Religious Service ..... Fri., Feb. 19, 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary
- Community Singles Service ..... Fri., Feb. 19, 10 p.m., Sanctuary

—NO SCHOOLS SAT., SUN., MON., FEB. 20, 21, 22—

- Torah Service ..... Sat., Feb. 20, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary
- Brotherhood Breakfast ..... Sun., Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m., Youth Lounge
- Dancer-Cize ..... Mon., Feb. 22, 9 a.m., Room 101

—NO HEBREW SCHOOL WED. FEB. 24 - TEACHER'S WORKDAY—

- Sisterhood Board Meeting ..... Wed., Feb. 24, 9:30 a.m., Room 101
- Aging Parents ..... Wed., Feb. 24, 8 p.m., Room 101
- "Ideas Through Books" ..... Wed., Feb. 24, 9:30 a.m., away
- "Ideas Through Books" ..... Thurs., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., away
- Dancer-Cize ..... Thurs., Feb. 25, 9 a.m., Room 101
- Israeli Dancing ..... Thurs., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., Social Hall
- Basic Judaism ..... Fri., Feb. 26, 7:15 p.m., Room 28
- Religious Service ..... Fri., Feb. 26, 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary
- Torah Service ..... Sat., Feb. 27, 9:15 and 11:15, Sanctuary
- Social Action Breakfast ..... Sun., Feb. 28, 9:45 a.m., Social Hall
- String Quartet Musicale ..... Sun., Feb. 28, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary

### Al Vorspan Speaks at Beth Am at Friday Night Service on January 29th



Al Vorspan, Vice President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, will be the guest speaker at Beth Am this Friday evening. The service will start at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Vorspan will speak on the topic, "Great Jewish Dilemmas," which is the title of his most recent book.

Al Vorspan has been involved with the U.A.H.C. in various capacities for many years. He currently supervises the Social Action Commission of the U.A.H.C. He is quite a humorist and a gifted speaker. He can speak on a serious subject with humorous interludes to keep his audience's attention. Those who have heard Mr. Vorspan speak here or at national conventions are anxiously awaiting his visit. If you have never heard him, you are in for a treat this Friday night.

### Register for Summer Camp Early!

The brochure for Temple Beth Am's Summer Camp program is in the mail. If you contemplate sending your children to the Beth Am Summer Camp, register before March 31st and save approximately 10% of the total fee. We offer this discount because we can affect a savings in our cost of operation and we pass this saving on to our congregants. The summer program, under the direction of Nancy Weinfeld, has been hiring staff and planning for the upcoming summer. As usual, we have a special program for 3 year olds, an extended time program for 4 year olds, and the usual summer activities for 5 through 9 years of age.

Check your brochure and send back the application form as soon as possible. This will help you and the Temple and save a sizable amount of money on both sides.

### Mid-Age Children "Rap" About Their Parents

The monthly "rap" session of children with problems and/or concerns about their aging parents will be held on Wednesday, January 27th, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 101.

Present, as a resource person, will be Dr. Richard Jacobs, gerontologist, who is associated with the Jewish Home for the Aged at Douglas Gardens.

This is YOUR session, YOUR opportunity to air your concerns, find answers, or just listen and learn! There are many resources available in the community. Find out what they are.

Also welcome are any people who feel they can contribute in any way to these vibrant exchanges.

Again, this is your session. Come—let's talk about it!!

### Basketball Banquet Speaker

We are excited to announce that our guest speaker for the Basketball Banquet on Sunday, Jan. 31, 1982, will be the University of Miami Head Football Coach Howard Schnellenberger. Keep those banquet forms coming in!!





## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

### Jews Who Won't Let Converts Be Jews

Most American Jews come from homes with a steadily diluted Jewishness. A decreasing number of American Jews keep kosher homes. Few children see their parents at prayer in the house. Some children don't even hear a discussion about God or Israel or what it means to be a Jew. Some children are never brought to services by their parents. Some never know the mystery of Shabbat candles or the joy of Chanukah candles. Some don't even attend a Seder. Yet children who come out of this kind of Jewishly sterile home may still have some kind of vague loyalty to Judaism and to the Jewish people. When they get married, their parents may insist that they marry a Jew or that the non-Jew they marry must convert. This column is about the non-Jew that is brought into this kind of assimilated Jewish environment.

Most American Jews learn about Judaism from the Sunday School teacher. Denied exposure to Jewish ritual and holiday observance in their home, and shielded from Jewish emotional and intellectual experience, the young Jew learns children's stories and is spoon-fed Jewish ideas by his teacher. Some American Jews drop out of the religious school educational process at Bar/Bat Mitzvah, having learned almost nothing that will sustain them in a profound way when they are older. Others go on to Confirmation and begin the process of learning something about their faith and people as young adults, but most of these drop out after Confirmation having just begun the adult process of learning about this profound phenomenon called Judaism.

The convert, on the other hand, studies Judaism as an adult. He/she is introduced to the faith at the top level and is encouraged to think and to ask questions. Discussions are held concerning the comparison of Judaism to other faiths. It is not at all unusual for a convert to be enflamed with Judaism. Inspired by what he or she has learned, and viewing Judaism as a truly superior religion, the convert may well be anxious to attend services, to perform rituals, etc. But what is the frequent experience of the convert in this regard? He/she bumps square into the resistance of his/her Jewish spouse who says, in effect, "Now wait a minute. I want you to be Jewish, as I am, but not THAT Jewish!"

Those of us who deal with the conversion class get to meet some wonderful people on their way to becoming Jews. Some of them become our finest Jews. We have learned, however, that we have to overcome not only the prospective convert's experience in another faith, we have also to combat the ignorance, Jewishly speaking, and, yes, the indifference of the Jewish partner.

What this teaches us is that we have placed too much emphasis in America on the child's religious school experience. That experience is important, especially when the child comes from a home with little Jewish flavor, but the school experience cannot do what enthusiastic and dedicated parents can do. It is daily and weekly ritualistic experience, and daily learning in the home that really builds up a Jewishly oriented person.

We know from the positive reaction of almost all of our present converts that Judaism is an exciting and dynamic religious alternative for modern times. We are encouraged by the response of our adult students to our teaching. We hope they will be able to overcome the acquired detachment of the Jew by birth whom they are marrying.

P.S. Our **Introduction to Judaism** course on Friday evenings (which prospective converts attend) is just an Adult Ed class open to all of our members.

## NEWS FROM BAFTY

By now you have heard about our BAFTY CREATIVE SERVICE last Friday. It was an inspiring and exciting service and we thank all those people who participated and supported us! Also many thanks go to those members of BAFTY who helped out with this year's Super Sunday effort. They helped to raise money for Jews all over the world. Don't forget our general dinner meeting February 1, and the all day CONCLAVE with other GMFTY groups from all over Miami, February 6th at Temple Sinai. For more details contact Rabbi Goldstein.

### A Camp For Exceptional Teen-Agers

Our national Reform movement sponsors a camp for exceptional teen-agers who want special training in Judaism or the arts. The camp is staffed by Rabbis and artists. Areas of specialization include:

Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts, Songleading, Jewish Studies, Hebrew, Israel, Education.

Kutz Camp is 90 acres of wooded property in Warwick, N.Y. First Semester beginning June 27th is \$775. Second Semester beginning July 22nd is \$755. Eight weeks is \$1,400. Campers must be 14 years as of June 1st. Contact Kutz Camp, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10021, Rabbi Allan Smith. Some scholarships are available through Rabbi Smith, (Seniors only.) Rabbi Baumgard will discuss Kutz Camp only with Beth-Am youngsters.

### Programs in Israel During 1982

With the start of the new year our Temple Office has begun receiving brochures from a variety of organizations and institutions who annually schedule a wide variety of study and/or work programs in Israel. Those of our students and adults who would be interested in information concerning such programs in Israel should contact us for information.

Just received was a very attractive and interesting brochure from the American Zionist Youth Foundation which contains programs for both high school age and college age students. There are touring programs, sport programs, kibbutz programs, leadership training seminars, and even religious programs involving a stay either at a religious kibbutz or at a yeshiva. There are, in addition, special short-term programs for such periods of the year as the mid-winter vacation, and there are at the opposite end of the spectrum, long-term programs such as Sherut La'am which can run anywhere from six months up to a year.

We anticipate that we shall be receiving other flyers and brochures in the coming weeks. Anyone interested in an Israel program should contact Rabbi Hoffman.

### Nominating Committee Meets Tuesday, Feb. 9

The Nominating Committee of Temple Beth Am, under the chairmanship of Dr. William Silver, will be meeting February 9th to nominate officers and board members for the 1982/83 year. Please submit your nominations in writing to Dr. Silver at the Temple office. Your nominee should be contacted prior to submission of his name to get his approval to serve. We are looking for those people who want to be involved in Temple government.

### B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, January 30  
11:15 a.m.



Peter, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Block



Jeffrey, son of  
Mrs. Warren Witus  
and  
Mr. Ronald Epstein

**Register Early For Summer Camp**