

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday March 12, 1982, 8:15 p.m.
RABBI GUNTHER PLAUT
FINDING TORAH EXCITING-A VOYAGE OF
REDISCOVERY
TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, March 13, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

Purim Service Monday, Mar. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Temple Beth Am will usher in the holiday of Purim on Monday evening, March 8th, at 7:30 p.m., with a special service to be held in the Sanctuary. Rabbi Baumgard will speak. Congregants will read the Book of Esther and tell the story of the queen who risked her life to save her people from danger. Groggers (noise makers) will be supplied to all participants who will be encouraged to "stamp out" Haman, that quintessence of guilt, who tried to exterminate the Jews of Persia long ago.

New Hispanic Havurah In Formation

Saturday evening, February 13th, a group of six Beth Am couples who have in common a Hispanic cultural background, met with Rabbi Hoffman to form a new Havurah which will welcome any member of the congregation, but which was initiated as a means of making sure that Temple members with Hispanic backgrounds in common would enjoy the experience of Havurah.

Present at the meeting were: Sam and Anne Gold, Ricardo and Barbara Henriquez, Raymond and Diana Hirshorn, Edward and Tulia Levy, Anita Stone, Jose and Mariana Wenger and Pablo and Miriam Muskat, at whose home the meeting was held.

This new Havurah has already made plans for several events in the coming months which will include a Purim party on March 7th, at the home of Sam and Anne Gold, and a third Passover Seder on Saturday night, April 10th, at the home of Pablo and Miriam Muskat. In addition the Havurah will, of course, participate in the retreat on March 28th at Larry and Penny Thompson Park.

Interested members of the congregation, whether Hispanics, Litvaks, Galitzianers, (so long as they are Jewish) are invited to call Miriam Muskat who is the contact person for this new Havurah, at 253-4200. Those wishing to attend the Purim party on March 7th, call Anne Gold at 661-3057.

Brotherhood Award Dinner, March 24th

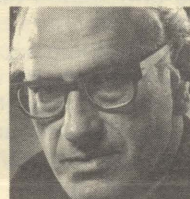
Ralph Cohen, President of Brotherhood, announced that the Annual Brotherhood Award for the outstanding football player at the University of Miami will be held on Wednesday evening, March 24th at 7:15 in the Social Hall. Following dinner, a movie will be shown on the highlights of the University of Miami football team.

Joe Brodsky, of the University of Miami coaching staff will be guest speaker and will present the annual trophy to the winner. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

In charge of arrangements are Michael Klein and Howard Malin, co-chairmen of the selection committee. Don Klein and Bernie Elrod are in charge of food.

Reservations must be made in advance by calling the Temple. 667-6667. Adults \$5.00 - Children under 13 - \$3.50.

*Rabbi Gunther Plaut
to Speak
Friday March 12th
at 8:15 p.m.*



Rabbi Dr. Gunther Plaut will address the congregation at our regular 8:15 service, Friday, March 12th. His subject will be "Finding Torah Exciting - A Voyage of Rediscovery". Rabbi Plaut has an extensive background in Bible and is primarily responsible for the new volume entitled, "The Torah: A Modern Commentary". 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 from the Hebrew Union College in 1939.

Rabbi Plaut is an ardent sportsman, and 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.

Contemporaries of Temple Beth Am Meet March 14th

The monthly meeting will take place Sunday, March 14, from 2:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. Featured will be a musical program by Iris Rosen (or Iris Lane, as she is professionally known) - a real treat for the ears!!

Interfaith Conference on

Crime and the Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 23RD, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

At the Temple. Registration Fee (including lunch)
\$2.50

Sponsored by: National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Sisterhood of Temple Beth Am in association with Church Women United of Greater Miami, Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, South Dade Branch of NAACP, St. Louis Catholic Church, Second Baptist Church of Richmond Heights, Kendall United Methodist Church.

The Attorney General of the State of Florida

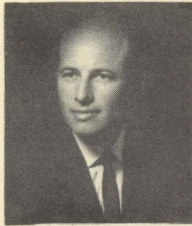
Jim Smith

Reports on Drug and Crime Developments

Workshops Beginning at 9 a.m.

Crime and Suburbia
Drugs and Your Family

How to Strengthen Your Family Life



THE MESSIAH

The Christian conception of Jesus as the Messiah is rooted in the Old testament. The word "Messiah" is a Hebrew word which means "the anointed one." As used by the literary prophets (Isiah, Jeremiah, etc.), the Messiah was to be a king of Israel who would overthrow the foreign power, usher in an independent Hebrew nation, and establish justice and peace. The prophets looked for his imminent coming. This would place the anticipated time at from 700 to 500 B.C.E. This is about 500 to 700 years before the birth of Jesus.

There was nothing supernatural in the prophetic understanding of the Messiah. He was to be a flesh and blood king, and he would do the things that a human king would do -no more, no less. The Romans understood the popular hope for the Messiah in just this sense. Therefore, when, in the time of Jesus, a small group of Jews believed him to be the Messiah, the Romans considered him a potential threat to their rule over the Jewish kingdom. Accordingly, they crucified him (they treated many Jews in just this fashion), and over his cross they wrote the mocking words, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of Judea" (so the New testament informs us). To make the mocking complete, the Romans clothed Jesus in a purple robe (the color of kings) and placed a "crown" on his head- a crown of thorns. In this fashion, the Roman overlord thoroughly squelched the hope of the followers of Jesus that he might overthrow the foreign power and become "The King of Israel." Apparently, this hope was not shared by many Jews because the basic Jewish sources of this period do not mention this event as being of any major significance.

The New Testament speaks of Jesus as not merely "the messiah," but also as "the son of man." In one of the apocalyptic books written by Jews outside the pale of normative Judaism, Esdras, there is talk of a semi-divine being coming in the clouds at "the end of days" to judge between the righteous and the wicked. This book was outlawed by the Jewish authorities as being not consistent with the mainstream of Judaism (this was, in fact, a Persian doctrine). The followers of Jesus picked up this concept and taught that Jesus was "the son of man." This is why Michelangelo depicts Jesus as "the Judge" dividing the lucky and unlucky men, and assigning one group to paradise, the other group to hell (in his painting in the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel). So much identified with the "Judge" did Jesus become in Medieval Europe that more Catholic Churches were dedicated to Mary than to her son during this period. Mary became the hope of the people for mercy.

While Christian theology gradually removed the human qualities from Jesus (a process that is being reversed today) and progressively made him into "the son of man," and then "the son of god" (a part of the godhead), Jewish teaching gradually took the qualities identified with the messiah and gave them over to the people themselves! When the messiah delayed in coming, Jewish folklore developed in such a way as to teach that he was delayed only because the people did not prepare for his coming. That is, instead of ushering in the era of righteousness, the messiah was to come at its culmination. He would come only when the good society had already been achieved by the people (remember, he was still a flesh and blood person in Jewish eyes).

Reform Judaism took this gradually developing viewpoint and crystallized it. While orthodox Jews still look for the coming of an individual Messiah, in the above sense, Reform Jews do not. We say that one man cannot save us. We look instead for a "a messianic age," a time when enough people, Jews and non-Jews, will co-operate sufficiently to create an age of peace and justice. We teach that we are all the messiah. Fragmented, we create war and injustice. Together, we are able to create the good society.

Calabash Club Planning Spring Dance Mar. 13

The Calabash Club, our very successful group for singles between the ages of 22-33, will be holding a Spring Dance, March 13, from 8:00-12:00 in the Youth Lounge. The Calabash Club, a congenial group for people who want to meet new people, had a fantastic brunch last Sunday, and we welcomed many new faces. REMEMBER: Saturday, March 13, 8:00—12:00, our GREAT SPRING DANCE!

'Religion in Israel' Topic for Brotherhood Forum March 21st at 9:30 a.m.

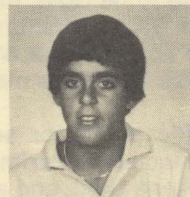
"RELIGION IN ISRAEL - HOW IT IS PRACTICED TODAY" will be the topic of discussion at the next Brotherhood Breakfast Forum on Sunday morning, March 18th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge. The speaker for that program will be Mr. Larry Tishkoff, Director of College Education at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Mr. Tishkoff was also a long time resident of Kibbutz Yahel in Israel. Participating with him will be Mr. Leslie Freedman, member of the Board of Temple Beth Am and a member of the National Board of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) as a representative of Beth Am.

The practice of the Jewish religion in Israel is far different than most people outside Israel would expect.. The youth of Israel (Sabras), particularly, seem to be going in an entirely different direction than their elders or, for that matter, differently than the Jews in the Diaspora. Since Israel is looked upon as a sort of mother country, how will this affect the practice of Judaism as a whole among adults in other areas of the world?

Admission to this all-you-can-eat Brotherhood Breakfast Forum will be \$2 for Brotherhood members and \$2.50 for non-members. Ladies are always welcome, of course.

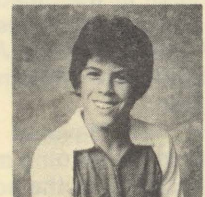
B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, March 13

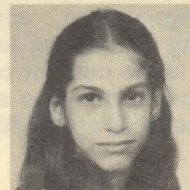


9:15 a.m.

Darren, son of Mrs. Susan Gordon and Mr. Spencer Gordon



Adam, son of Mrs. Wendy Levy and Mr. Mark Levy



11:15 a.m.

Jennifer, daughter of Mrs. Arthur Gilbert and Mr. Jeffrey Kaufman



Steven, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rosenthal

In order to understand the new "death of god" theology in Christian ranks, we must understand it as a revolt against the old supernaturalism which deprived man of all responsibility and power and gave it all over to "the son of man," to Jesus. The radical theologians amongst the Christians would make of Jesus, not the "son of god: or "the son of man" or even "the messiah." They would speak of him as a good man to be imitated. This is a complete reversal of Christian thinking, so we can understand why it is unpopular amongst fundamentalist Christians. On the other hand, the new process represents a judaizing of Christianity. For us, God has never been the sole actor while we are mere spectators. We do not have to "kill" God in order to give man responsibility, for we have always taught that man serves as God's agent.