



MAY 7, 1982

FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE, Fri., May 7, 1982, 7:15 p.m.  
RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD  
"THE WORLD'S GREATEST PROFESSION -  
A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS"  
TORAH SERVICE, Sat., May 8, 1982, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

## Beth Am Commentator

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

### Budget for 1981-82 Approved by Board

At the April Board Meeting, the Temple Board of Directors approved the budget for the operation of the Temple for Fiscal Year 1982-83 which starts July 1st of 1982. The budget represents only a 5% increase over the current year.

The Budget Committee, under the direction of Herb Neuman our Financial Secretary, has budgeted increases only where absolutely necessary.

### Temple Running at a Small Deficit

Due to a problem in collecting pledges that were made by some of our members for the current year, we anticipate the Temple operating in the red for the 1981-82 year. Many members have made pledges at the time they registered for membership and have not made timely payments to the Temple. We hope those members will see fit to clear up their accounts prior to June 30th.

### Fair-Share Schedule to Remain the Same

The Fair-Share Dues schedule for 1982-83 will remain at the same level as the current year. This calls for a minimum Fair-Share Dues contribution of \$600. We have to appeal to those members of the congregation who can afford to increase their Fair-Share level of giving to do so voluntarily this year. The current budget does not include the Nursery/Kindergarten/Day School or the Summer Program which are self-sustaining programs of the Temple.

### Summer Program Almost at Capacity

The summer program at Beth Am, under the direction of Nancy Weinfeld, has notified us that enrollment is almost at capacity. There has been an increased demand in all age groups. This is occasioned by the fact that the program has been improving steadily in all of its facets and there has been an upgrading of the staff handling the program. If you contemplate sending your child to Beth Am this summer, call the Temple Office immediately for our camp brochure which gives all the details of fees, dates of operation, and the age groups that we handle. The contact in the office is Rhoda Bernheimer at 667-6667. Please hurry. Now is the time to register.

### A Collegian's Response to Beth Am's Passover Package

Dear Rabbi Baumgard and/or Director of Collegian Relations, I am not sure I can adequately relate to you the surprise I experienced when the mailroom of my dormitory notified me of the delivery of a package from Temple Beth Am. I was thoroughly impressed that Beth Am had taken the time and the expense to remember its collegian congregants at Passover, with matzah, macaroons, and a Haggadah. What most struck me about the package was the magnitude of a project that must have reached students all across the nation.

Here at Cornell, I attended Passover dinner at Hillel. Cornell has what is probably an unusually large Jewish population and several organizations (including fraternities and sororities) arranged seders. Passover at school turned out to be both an interesting and pleasant experience. I want you to know that this Passover was made even more pleasant by the package sent me by Beth Am.

Thank you so much,  
Jeffrey Kallan, Cornell University

(Editor's note: Packages were sent to those students whose names are given to the Temple by their parents.)

### The Committee of 100

The following members of "The Committee of 100" have rejoined for the fiscal year starting in July:

Two Anonymous Families

Irwin and Helene Adler

Stephen and Marlin Arky

James and Lois Barlow

Ray and Roslyn Berrin

Max and Peggy Brown

Harold and June Brown

Filmore and Judith Chaiken

Alan and Carole Chase

Seymour and Elaine Cohen

Murray and Helene Dubbin

Cheryl and Errol Eisinger

Lawrence and Suzanne Fishman

Ronald and Marilyn Flam

Stephen and Elisabeth Frank

Leslie and Terry Freedman

Morris and Mikki Futernick

Harold and Irene Gaines

Roberta Gilbert

Ronald and Carol Gittess

Joseph and Ruth Gittleman

(partial listing)

MORE MEMBERS OF THE "COMMITTEE" ARE NEEDED

### Harriet Potlock Fund to Furnish Room 101

Al Liebert, Temple President, announced that with agreement from Harriet Potlock's family, funds contributed to the Temple in her memory will be used to purchase furniture for the room already dedicated to Harriet, Room 101.

It was the original intent of the planners of the Learning Center to use this double-room, among other purposes, as a room where singles might informally congregate. Unfortunately, funds for the purchase of the furniture for this room have not been available.

Friends of Harriet are invited to make contributions to the Temple marked for The Harriet Potlock Fund. These funds will be used to purchase comfortable chairs, sofas, etc. for this room.

THE LOSS OF COMMUNITY

I have been a Rabbi now for 31 years, and I have observed some radical developments over these years in the Jewish community. Most of these developments are part of changes taking place in American society, and our community merely reflects what is happening on a larger scale to America in general. America is experiencing a continuing *urbanization* at an intensive rate, and it is experiencing a continuing emphasis on the rights and welfare of the *individual* as the highest good. My observation is that these simultaneous developments are both fortunate and unfortunate for the individual, for you and me.

The increasing emphasis on the independence of the individual has given to the individual more freedom and more choice than ever in the history of any society. If our individuals were able to handle this freedom and to make mature choices, we would be a nation of happy individuals, but, alas, this surely is not so! What I observe is a progressive deterioration in the inner happiness of Americans (and of Jews). We are, of course, more pleasure bound, but it seems clear that the experience of constant pleasure has little to do with being fundamentally happy.

The accelerated movement towards urbanization and the glorification of the individual accompanies the accelerated decay of village (small community) and family life. Whatever was good in the values and the support systems of the small community (such as a self-contained Jewish community) and the family, is giving way to a new kind of value-system and system of relating. A symptom of what is happening is the sudden rise of numerous cults which are substitute small communities and substitute families in a society where these old institutions are losing their force and authority. The success of cults and the many new volunteer family groups headed by charismatic personalities is an indication of the frantic search of many for new "parents" to replace the discarded ones. The truth is that many people are frightened by the new freedom (perhaps wisely so) and (unwisely) grasp at the first opportunity to find themselves a new parent and a new home.

The divorce rate is a reflection of the emphasis on individual happiness rather than on family well-being. A parent will choose to be happy by himself/herself even if it means that the other parent will suffer or that the children will suffer. While in some cases divorce is warranted and healthy, it must be obvious to all that in our society the rash of divorces is a symptom of our disease. *We don't know how to handle the discovery that the individual has the right to be happy.* Too many of us interpret this in an immature and irresponsible fashion. Is individual happiness totally inconsistent with the concept of duty?

Recently I received notice that a member of our congregation had lost her father. She went to New York for the funeral. For a week she could not be reached by her Rabbi or many friends. She could not have the benefit of their commiseration. They could not have the privilege of sharing her grief. Distance deprives people of the chance to come together as a community (as a village people) to be close. Increasingly individuals are isolated in their grief, just as they are unable to share their joy with others, for who is getting married and who is able to stay married, and who is marrying someone within their community if they get married?

After 31 years in the rabbinate, it seems clear to me that we are losing continuity in our lives. The children make choices that seem to cut themselves off from the cherished dreams of their parents ("for I have the right to be happy"), then deny their parents the privilege of grandchildren. Individuals relate to one another in a series of one-night stands (it lasts a little longer if they are lucky), and many go begging for the privilege of living with someone for just a little while (which seems to be easier to take than the loneliness).

It is really no trick to describe the tragedy of the decay of the village (small community) and family life. The real trick is to find ways to develop some kind of substitute support system which will do the job as well. As I read the lessons of the first few thousand years of human history, there are no equally satisfactory substitutes. In time, we will have to return to the family and the small community to rediscover who we are and how to survive. Some smart people are holding on to their identity and happiness in these ways even now.

**"Jewish Contribution to Stage" at May 14 Service**

"Jewish Contribution To The Broadway Stage" will be presented by our Adult Choir, May 14th, at 8:15. Songs from Fiddler, Westside Story, Sound of Music, South Pacific and more will be presented in solo and in choir performance.

The Religious School is now hiring teachers for the Fall. Some of our best teachers are members of the congregation who serve as a matter of dedication. If you have an education in teaching, or if you have experience in leading youth groups, we can provide you with the Jewish background and material to teach one of our courses. Call in to arrange for an interview. You can make no greater contribution to the future of the Jewish people than by teaching Jewish children about their faith and history.

Pictured below is one of our wonderful members who is making this singular contribution to your children.

I am a "professional" volunteer. In most cases I choose to volunteer my efforts because I believe the volunteer is the "heart" of the civilized world. Being a "Professional Volunteer" is the most exciting and challenging thing since motherhood. It is creative, nurturing, life-saving and life-sustaining. For Jewish women it is a part of a long tradition. My years of volunteerism and Jewish study have placed me in a position to impact on something so positive and so important as the perpetuation of the dreams and values of our people. As a religious school teacher, I am able to influence future generations. Sure it's difficult work and even harder to get up on a Saturday or Sunday morning. But believe me, it's my pleasure!



Mikki Futernick

Family: husband - Morris; 5 children - 4 boys ages 11-19; married daughter - Cathie to Leonard Sklawer and 1 grandson - Mitchell.

Education: BA from U of M in Sociology and a minor in Jewish Studies. Certified brailist - Library of Congress.

Organizations in which I have held leadership positions: National Council of Jewish Women, AEPHI Alumnae Association, Howard Drive P.T.A., Visiting Nurses Association, Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

*B'Nai Mitzvah*

Thursday, May 6th

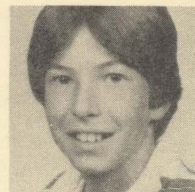
11:15 a.m.



Bennett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Hirschhorn

Saturday, May 8th

9:15 a.m.



Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Davis

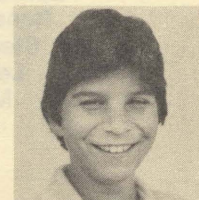


Craig Shane, son of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Fox

11:15 a.m.



Laura, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Buchbinder



Richard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Zucker