



MAY 28, 1982

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, May 28, 1982, 8:15 p.m.

CONFIRMATION CREATIVE SERVICE

TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, May 29, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

Shavuot Begins Thursday Night, May 27th Friday Eve Service Celebrates Holiday

Beth Am will officially celebrate the festival of Shavuot at our regular Friday evening service on May 28th at 8:15 p.m. That service will include an experimental multi-media service by the Confirmation Class. At that time we will also honor Rabbi Morris Kipper, Director of the Jewish High School Program in Israel.

Candles are to be lit in all homes on Thursday evening at sundown. The blessings are found below.

Shavuot is one of the three major Festivals (Haggim) in Judaism, developing around agricultural themes, but to each Festival a major ethical event in the history of our people was assigned. Shavuot marks the anniversary of the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai. As such, the holiday's central theme is the moral law or Torah. It is for this reason that Confirmation graduation is held at Shavuot time. The students are asked to confirm their faith to the Torah as young adults.

At the Confirmation exercises which will be held on Sunday morning, May 30th, at 9:45 p.m., the students will take the same oath that the ancient Israelites took at the foot of Mt. Sinai. They will be asked to say, "Na-ah-seh V'nishmah," "We will perform these laws and we will hearken to them."

(Continued on Page 2)

Confirmands to Conduct Service Fri. May 28th Confirmation Exercise Sunday, May 30th 9:45 a.m.

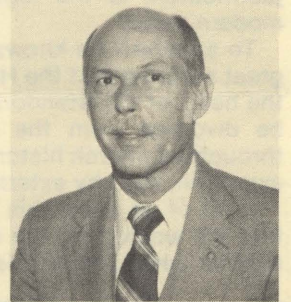
On Friday evening, May 28th, the Confirmation Class will present a Creative Service at 8:15 p.m. The students have been working very hard for the last two months, putting together creative readings, special prayers which they have written, as well as a dramatic presentation with slides. The theme of the service is, "Who We Are: An Examination of Our Past, Present and Future." Rabbi Robert Goldstein is assisting the creative team. This service, which begins the "Confirmation Weekend" should be one of the highlight services of the year. Rabbi Morris Kipper, Director of the High School in Israel program, will be honored at this service.

The final Confirmation Exercise will take place on Sunday, May 30th, at 9:45 a.m. At this time, 86 students who have completed the Confirmation requirements will make their formal declaration of loyalty to Judaism and the Jewish people.

The students will present an original musical-narration entitled, "Who Am I?" The young people did the research on the contents of the narration and prepared essays with the help of Rabbi Baumgard and Dorothy Herman. Other youngsters, under the direction of Susan Shane and Joan Schwartz, will serve as the Chorus, while still others, under the direction of Shira Baumgard, will present original dances. Sandy Goldman's art group has drawn dramatic scenes which will serve as the backdrop for the presentation. Gary Eisenberg has assisted Sandy.

Rabbi Morris Kipper Honored May 28 at Beth Am

Rabbi Morris Kipper will be honored by our congregation at the Friday evening service of May 28th. The former Rabbi of Temple Judea in Coral Gables, Rabbi Kipper has been serving as Director of the High School in Israel program for many years, a program which has directed hundreds of Beth Am children but which serves Jewish high school students all over America. Beth Am chooses to honor Rabbi Kipper for what it considers to be a unique contribution to intensive Jewish Education.



Before he founded the High School in Israel program under the auspices of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Rabbi Kipper had been active in sponsoring an intensive education program for special students at Camp Coleman. It has always been Rabbi Kipper's thesis that children will respond more readily to an intensive educational program than to a diluted program. His accomplishments in this area prove his thesis.

The tribute paid to Rabbi Kipper will be part of our special service created by the Confirmands of 1982, many of whom have attended the High School in Israel.

Rabbi Kipper's wife, Lenore, is Supervisor of the Hebrew program in our Day School and a teacher in our mid-week Hebrew School. She and Rabbi Kipper are co-authors of two children's books in wide use today: "God's Wonderful World" and "Debbie and Joey in God's World".

The Committee of 100

The following new member family has volunteered to join "The Committee of 100" for the new year.

Guy and Nina Rodrick

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

Two Anonymous Families

Stuart and Fran Ames

Harvey and Ellen Amster

Albert and Fay Aronson

Donald and Elaine Berkowitz

Sam and Lynn Berkowitz

Jerome and Gwen Berlin

David and Sydele Berman

Robert and Eileen Breier

Neil and Nancy Braverman

Steven and Linda Brown

Harold and Nancy Deutsch

Carlos and Helaine Dominguez

Sidney and Florence Fox

Daniel and Iris Franco

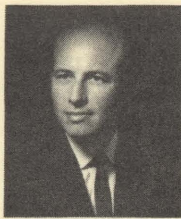
David and Linda Frankel

Harold and Jill Gaffin

Martin and Linda Gallant

Robert and Leta Garvett

More members of the "Committee" are needed



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

ANTI-SEMITISM AND CHRISTIANITY

The following are excerpts from an article by Dr. Carl D. Evans, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of South Carolina, which appeared in "The Christian Century" of May 5, 1982. It is worthwhile to read the entire article.

Paul M. Van Buren's offering in The Christian Century's "How My Mind Has Changed" series (June 17-24, 1981) is eloquent testimony to a new awakening occurring in academic circles. Christian theologians, biblical scholars and church historians are becoming increasingly aware of the necessity to rethink what they do in the light of Jewish theology, history and exegesis. Van Buren's admission that much of Christian theology has been "wrong about Israel, the people of God, and therefore . . . to that extent wrong about the God of Israel" echoes similar assessments by other scholars.

I am convinced that false witness against our Jewish neighbors is commonplace, even habitual, in the routine life of the church - in its study, worship and witness. If this were not so, students entering my classes would not hold so many erroneous ideas about Jews and their religion.

Let me be more specific. It is commonplace to hear Christian sermons that reprove the Pharisees for being self-righteous, sanctimonious, hypocritical and obnoxious. Nothing could be further from the truth. Despite the attempt of several New Testament writers to portray them in this way.

From the Gospels one gets the impression that Judaism has no heart, no compassion beyond a devotion to the Law. Meticulous observance of the Law, down to each jot and tittle, is more important to the Jew than relationships with human beings, so we are led to believe.

I'm convinced that anti-Semitism has been such a powerful and persistent nemesis largely because of the church's false witness against the Jews.

This myth led to a loss of civil rights, to ghettoization, punishment by Inquisition and public executions, expulsion from countries like England, Spain and Portugal, brutal attacks by the Crusaders, pogroms and so on, The medieval treatment of the Jews, buttressed by continuing theological justification, is the legacy that we have inherited in the modern period.

To anyone who knows this tragic history, it comes as no great surprise that the Holocaust could and did take place in the heart of Christendom. The Nazis' "final solution" cannot be divorced from the attempts to get rid of the Jews throughout church history - first by forced conversion, then by expulsion, then by extermination.

If all of us knew this tragic history better, I'm convinced that we would feel the urgency to cease our false witness against Jews and Judaism.



Registration Forms
For 1982 - 83
To Be Mailed
June 1st

Shavuot Begins Thursday May 27th

(Continued from Page 1)

Special meals are held in the home on Shavuot which is at eventide on Thursday, May 27th. There are the usual festival benedictions which follow for your information and use.

Thanksgiving: Thanks be to You, Oh Lord, who has kept us alive and sustained us and enabled us to experience this celebration.

Baruch Ahtah Ahdonai Eloheynu Mehlech Ha-Ohlam She-Hech-Chey-Yah-Nu; Key-May-Nu V'Higgi-Ah-Nu-Lahz-Man Ha-Zeh.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שהחיינו
וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה:

Blessing Over the Candles: Thanks be to You Oh Source of Light, Who Urges Us to bring Light into the World.

Bahurch Ahtah Ahdonai Eloheynu Mehlech Ha-Ohlam Asher Kid'Shanu B'Mitzvahtav V'Tzivahnu L'Hadlik Nare Shel Yom Tov.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו
במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של יום טוב.

Blessing Over the Wine: Oh Creator of This Wine and All Things that grow From the Earth, We Thank You and dedicate Ourselves to be Creators of Good Things.

Bahurch Ahtah Ahdonai Eloheynu Mehlech Ha-Olam Boray P'ri Ha-Gafen.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם בורא פרי הגפן:

Shavuot Yizkor Service May 29, 11:15 a.m.

This year the festival of Shavuot Yizkor Service will be held on Saturday morning May 29th at the 11:15 a.m. service. All who wish to observe this ritual are urged to attend.

BAFTY's End of the Year Banquet at Bogey's June 6

BAFTY, our senior youth group (grades 9-12) will be holding its end of the year banquet and installation of officers at BOGEY'S BARN, on Sunday, June 6th at 6:00 p.m. ALL members of BAFTY are urged to attend this very special event. The cost will be \$5.00 and reservations must be made no later than June 1. Call Shoshi at 667-6667 with your reservations. Also: NINTH GRADERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

B'nai Mitzvah

Saturday, May 29



9:15 a.m.

Max Taylor, son of
Mr. Sylvan Holtzman
and
Mrs. Barbara Holtzman



11:15 a.m.



David, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Moret

Jarrett, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wolf