RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, October 15, 1982, 8:15 p.m. Interfaith Service With South Dade Baptist Assoc. RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD "IN THE BEGINNING"

TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, October 16th, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

# **Beth Am Commentator**

OCTOBER 15, 1982

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

## TEMPLE ENTERTAINS BAPTISTS FRIDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 15

Friday night, October 15 is Inter-Faith Night at Temple Beth Am. In a program co-sponsored by Beth Am, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith, and the Miami Baptists Association, Beth Am will play host to the Baptists of South Florida. Rabbi Baumgard will speak at the service, and following the service questions from the floor will be entertained by one of the Baptist ministers and Rabbi Baumgard.

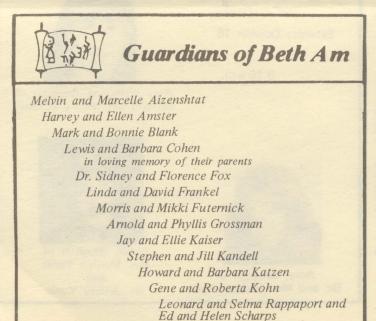
The congregation is encouraged to attend in large numbers to play host to our visitors who are expected in large numbers. Beth Am has entertained this particular group in the past with great warmth and conviviality.

## Rabbi Landau Speaker at Breakfast Oct. 17th

Rabbi Dr. Sol Landau will be the guest speaker at the Brotherhood Breakfast Forum on Sunday morning, October 17th at 9:30 a.m. in the Temple Youth Lounge. His topic for discussion will be, "How Best To Handle Your Stress in Today's Stressful World."

Rabbi Landau has been counsellor to the top echelon management of many large corporations on the subject of "Burn-Out and the Business." One of his favorite topics when speaking before large groups is "All Stress is Not Bad." He comes to us with the depth and understanding of many years in the service of his community.

Admission to this all-you-can-eat Brotherhood Breakfast Forum is \$2.50 for Brotherhood members and \$3.00 for non-members. Bring your friends and neighbors. Ladies, of course, are always welcome.



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The Cultural Fine Arts Committee of Beth Am			
presents			
An Afternoon of Music			
Sunday, October 17th, at 4 pm. in the Sanctuary			
Artists: Christine Nield, principal flutist Fort			
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usero as gainsan	Nina Gordon	assistant principal cello Fort	
and a second sec		Lauderdale Symphony	
right, not to a	Michele Levin	First prize winner of the Bach	
a the sector		International Piano Competition	
Donation:	Students & Senior	Citizens: \$2.50	
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	Sponsor	\$50.00	
	Patron:	\$100.00	
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#### Margot Berman Publishes Book on Jewish Libraries

The Temple Beth Am Librarian, Margot S. Berman, who has been with us for many years, has just published a book through the Jewish Book Council of New York entitled, "How To Organize A Jewish Library". This book will serve as a reference and guide for organizers of Jewish Libraries and Synagogues and Jewish Institutions around the world. Margot is the Past President of the Association of Jewish Libraries and has represented that organization on the Council of National Library and Information Association for the past five years.

We are very proud of Margot.

The photo below was taken at the annual AWARDS CEREMONY of the JWB Jewish Book Council in New York. The occasion marked the publication of a manual which was commissioned by the Council: HOW TO ORGANIZE A JEWISH LIBRARY: A Source Book For Synagogue, School and Center Libraries written by Margot S. Berman.



Pictured are (left to right) Blu Greenberg, vice president of the Council, Margot Berman, Ruth Frank, director of the Council.



#### Nightmare in Beirut

(The following is an excerpt from the Rabbi's sermon on Yom Kippur. Full copies are available at the office.)

The kind of mistake that the Israelis have made with regard to the Palestinian camps in Beirut is tragic indeed, but it is the kind of mistake that seems tied to so many military endeavors. We Americans were shocked to learn what some of our soldiers did in Viet Nam. The story of My Lai, which involved the deliberate attempt of American Soldiers to slaughter non-combatant men, women and children, is just one of many brutal stories to come out of the Viet Nam War. At that time, some Americans thought our army was worse than the Viet Nam Army, but as time went by, the North Vietnamese proved that they were capable of slaughtering hundreds and thousands of innocent people in Cambodia and elsewhere.

It would be better, of course, if there were no wars, and we Jews are pledged to work for the kind of world envisioned by the Prophet Isaiah, when all peoples will lay down their arms. But in a world where there are constant wars, and in a world where the Jews have been victimized not only by others, but by our own commitment to pacifism, it would not be wise for us to act as if we were the only people to have been involved in a military atrocity. We should do penance, yes, but we do not have to accept the castigations of our enemies that we are as brutal as the Arafats or as uncaring as others committed over the centuries to the philosophy of the sword.

We Jews have the right, as all peoples have the right, not to be judged by one event but rather on the basis of our actions over the long haul. A people which lost six million to the Nazis because of its tradition of non-violence can hardly be fairly described in the vicious tones directed its way recently by enemies just waiting for us to make one slip.

For example, some commentators have condemned Begin for presuming to bomb that part of Beirut where Israel's avowed enemies were dug in, but what the Israelis did to West Beirut is as child's play when compared to what Russian planes did to cities in Afghanistan, or what American planes did to German cities or to Hanoi. The great powers have never hesitated to bomb population centers when it suited their interests. And whatever the Israelis have done in total in their Lebanese War is not in the same league with what Hassad of Syria did only recently in the city of Hama to his own countrymen. Where was the world's outcry when Hassad's soldiers systematically killed 20,000 Syrian Moslems who dared to oppose his regime. And what does any of this mean compared to the 100,000 killed when America dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima? As Americans we ought to have a great deal more on our conscience about Hiroshima than we should have as Jews concerning Beirut.

As most of you know, I am a borderline pacifist to this day, and I have an innate suspicion about all wars. I believe that fighting a war is like trying to steer a rudderless ship. Once you set sail in a war, you are at the mercy of unsuspected storms of events. Judaism teaches that he who kills one person is as if he has destroyed the world. I find it hard to justify even the most just war because I believe this teaching to be true, but I feel that we have to look at all events in historical perspective. Who is to blame for recent events in Lebanon? Were they set in motion by the Christians who attacked civilians in the Palestinian camps in Beirut, or were they set in motion by the P.L.O. which slaughtered tens of thousands of innocent Christians last month or last year? Who is to blame for the presence of the Israelis in Lebanon? Would they be there at all if the P.L.O. wasn't using Lebanon as a base from which they were terrorizing Israel and from which they were already preparing to launch a future war of gigantic magnitude?

How sad it is that the people which practiced pacifism for 1800 years should find its armies at the door of Beirut in 1982! How sad it is that the descendents of Isaiah and Zechariah should have to become the best fighting force in the world in the 20th Century in order to survive! I share the feeling of Golda Meir who was asked by a journalist several years ago, "Mrs. Meir, how do you feel about the Arabs? Can you ever forgive them for their repeated invasions?" Mrs. Meir answered sadly, "In time I think that I can forgive them for killing our boys, but I don't think I can ever forgive them for making us kill their boys."

> TEMPLE BETH AM'S BLOOD DRIVE Sunday, November 14th, 1982 Mark Your Calendar

## 8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP

Please join us for the October events. Meet new people and have a great time.

Oct. 16 - Boat Party

Three hour boat cruise along the bay. Refreshments will be served. We leave the Temple at 7:00 p.m. and return about 11:30 p.m. by bus. \$7.00 charge. Make checks payable to Kathy Johnson. Send to the Temple attention Kathy Johnson. Reservations must be in by Oct. 9th. (Bring your cassettes.)

Oct. 24 - Meeting and Picnic

Attendance is very important; be involved in the planning of events. 11:00 - 1:00 at the Temple, on the ballfield. Drinks and desserts will be served.

For more information, call Kathy at 251-9375.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & DAY SCHOOL STAFF AT C.A.J.E.

Coalition for Alternatives in Jewish Education (C.A.J.E.) is a National movement for everyone working in the field of Jewish education. Each year a conference is held at which time the participants attend a variety of classes. This year the conference was held on the campus of Brandeis University. Dorothy Herman, Religious School Coordinator, presented <u>The Joy of Shabbat</u>, a family education curriculum used in our 6th grades, and Lenore Kipper, Judaica Curriculum Supervisor of the Day School, presented <u>Alef Bet of Jewish Life</u>, a text created to teach Jewish values while learning the Hebrew language. Other Religious School teachers attending included, Joan Schwartz, Susan Klein, Sandra Goldman, and Charlotte Klieman. All returned feeling inspired after learning with 1500 people concerned with Jewish education.

#### Dr. Kathleen Norton Presents Research Paper

Dr. Kathleen Norton, Educational Consultant of Beth Am Day School, has been asked to present a synopsis of her recent research at the Florida State Reading Council's Annual Conference being held in Tampa in October. We're so proud of her!

