

FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE, Friday, April 1, 1983, 7:30 p.m.

RABBI ROBERT GOLDSTEIN

"COUNTING THE DAYS - VALUING OUR TIME"

TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, April 2, 1983, 11:15 a.m.

# **Beth Am Commentator**

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

### Last day of Passover Monday, April 4th

Services for the last day of Passover will be held on Monday morning, April 4th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Temple Sanctuary.

As is customary on the last day of Passover, the YIZKOR, OR MEMORIAL SERVICE, will be recited in memory of dear ones who are no longer with us.

## Calendar for April

NO SCHOOLS SPRING VACATION APRIL 1-10
Family Worship Service Fri. Apr. 1, 7:30 p.m., Sanct.
Basic Judaism Fri. Apr. 1, 8:30 p.m., Rm. 28
Torah Service Sat. Apr. 2, 11:15 a.m.
LAST DAY OF PASSOVER MON. APRIL 4
YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICE 10:00 A.M. —— OFFICE CLOSED
Aged Parents Thur. Apr. 7, 7:30 p.m., Room 101
and for three more weeks
Basic Judaism Fri. Apr. 8, 7:30 p.m., Rm. 28
Religious Service Fri. Apr. 8, 8:15 p.m., Sanct.
Torah Service Sat. Apr. 9, 11:15 a.m.
Contemporaries Sun. Apr. 10, 2-4 p.m., Youth Lge.
ALL SCHOOLS REOPEN MON. APR. 11
BAFTY Dinner Meeting Mon. Apr. 11, 6 p.m. Youth Lge.
9 Grade Dinner Meeting Mon. Apr. 11, 6 p.m. Room 101
Sisterhood Meeting Wed. Apr. 13, 10 a.m. Room 101
Adult Basketball Wed. Apr. 13, 7:30 p.m., Gym
and every week thereafter
Basic Judaism Fri. Apr. 15, 7:30 p.m., Rm. 28
Religious Service - Torah
Dedication Fri. Apr. 15, 8:15 p.m., Sanct.
Torah Service
Brotherhood Breakfast Sun. Apr. 17, 9:30 a.m., Youth Lge.
Temple Board Meeting Tue. Apr. 19, 7:30 p.m., Rm. 101
Death & Dying Seminar Wed. Apr. 20, 7:30 p.m., Sanct.
and Rms. 26, 27, 28 and 101
Basic Judaism Fri. Apr. 22, 7:30 p.m., Rm. 28
Religious Service - "New
Beginning" Creative Svce Fr. Apr. 22, 8:15 p.m., Sanct.
Torah Service Sat. Apr. 23, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.
Congregational Meeting Mon. Apr. 25, 7:30 p.m., Youth Lge.
"Ideas Through Books" Wed. Apr. 27, 9:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m., away
Basic Judaism Fri. Apr. 29, 7:30 p.m., Rm. 28
Religious Service - Choir -
"Contribution to Broadway" Fri. Apr. 29, 8:15 p.m., Sanct.
Torah Service Sat. Apr. 30, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Temple Beth Am Brotherhood Installation and Award Dinner May 7 at 7:30 p.m. Call Bernard Elrod at 385-1276

# Children Having a Birthday? Call in for Family Service, First Friday

At the Family Service which is held the first Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m., Beth Am has a lovely little ceremony where the children who have their birthday in that particular month are called forward to the altar to receive a special blessing.

The congregation participates by singing a song called, "The Birthday Blessing". Children love to be so honored.

Do your child a favor and enable him to share this honor. Phone in the name of your child during the week before the first Friday, and we will read the name from the pulpit. Even if you have not called in the name, the child may come forward (the Rabbi always invites such children). It is better, of course, for the child, to hear his/her name called.

# Community Blood Drive Set for May 1st in Temple Social Hall

On Sunday, May 1st, between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Beth Am will aid the South Florida Blood Service in supplying blood to the needy. Voluntarily donated blood assures the fastest possible blood supply at the lowest possible risk to the patient. Blood is life, and people willing to share it are the only hope for people who need it.

Please consider becoming a volunteer blood donor. Pledge your pint of blood by calling Sydell Oltchick at 251-3183 or Diana Elson at 665-1958 - or give your pledge when our phone committee calls you. (We never know when our own personal blood need may arise.)

Brotherhood, as usual, will supply a fantastic breakfast.

# "When Death Comes..." Seminar, April 20th, At Temple, 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

A seminar workshop program on the general theme of "When Death Comes..." will take place at Beth Am on Wednesday evening, April 20th at 7:30 p.m. Among the seminars, any of which may be chosen by those attending are, "When Someone You Love is Dying", "Breaking Through Grief (for Widows and Widowers), "Talking About Death With Children", and "The Bereaved Parent".

The Planning Committee for the program is Edie Stark, Diana Elson, and Rabbi Baumgard. Seminar supervisors include Esther Colliflower, Program Director of Hospice, Inc., Doris Bass, Director of Elders Institute, Florida International University, Dotty Casper, Mental Health Counsellor, and Edie Stark, Humanistic Health Care Educator and Grief and Bereavement Counselor.

Pre-registration is preferred. Please send in your name and workshop preference to Rabbi Baumgard. There is a modest fee of \$3. Make out your check to Temple Beth Am.



#### FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

#### When Someone Dies

Recently I taught a segment of a Comparative Religion class at the University of Miami. The subject was 'Ritual in Time of Death''. The students, who were of various faiths, verbalized the fact that Judaism seems to have the most complete and meaningful set of mourning rituals.

The Jewish ritual in a time of mourning is a channel through which one is helped to express his/her feelings. Ultimately, the rituals help to lead the mourner back to a normal life.

The first goal of these rituals is to help the mourner accept the reality of the death. So many of us want to deny that our beloved has actually died. We can't bear to think of living without them. The ritual which gives the mourner the duty of handling a **shovel of earth** (even if only symbolically, as is frequently true today) is designed to help the mourner say, "I am filling in the grave of my beloved. He/she is indeed dead". So often, in our cosmetic time, we try to spare the mourner this moment of agonizing awareness, but the ritual is designed to bring about the awareness, for the awful moment must be faced.

The ritual of "Shivah", sitting at home, is designed to help the mourner express his/her grief. The mourner is not permitted to run here and there, attending to normal duties or pleasures. No, one must stay home and accept the commiseration of one's friends and relatives. So often, I hear people say, "But I don't want to see anyone. I want to cry alone. I don't want anyone to see me in my pain". Such backing into a corner is not the way to a healthy expression of grief. Each time a friend embraces you and asks, "What happened?", and each agonizing time you tell the story, you are releasing anger and fear and desperation that is better outside than inside. and each time, a friend tells of his sadness at what has happened, you are able to verbalize your sadness a little better, and each time a friend cries at your side, you are able to cry more fully. This is the time for crying. There will be another kind of time.

The ritual of "Shivah" is one of the psychologically profound customs of Judaism that are as meaningful in the modern world as in the past, for it is rooted in the deepest kind of human need.

It is one of our customs that the "kaddish" prayer should be said by the mourner for a year. In Orthodoxy this prayer is said three times a day for the year in the synagogue. In Reform Judaism, we urge upon our adherents that they say the prayer at every Sabbath service for the year. There is something about getting together with other mourners that is strengthening. There is something about returning to the synagogue as the communal base that is strengthening. The Bible tells us that when Jacob died, "he was gathered to his people". The kaddish prayer is designed to gather the bereaved to their people, to learn more about them, to gain strength from this people, to be strengthened personally. In a world being increasingly fragmentized, when the individual is more and more isolated, the kaddish prayer brings us back to the center. The death of a loved one is a time for regrouping.

Jewish death rituals and prayers also lead us back to **God**, for death is a God reminder. Death reminds us that we are each of us fragile, just dust and ashes after all, with a special spark that is miraculously precious. This spark links us to God. The kaddish prayer asks us to look towards those external aspects of existence which make our finite life meaningful.

And death is a time when we Jews think of Tz'dakah, Charity. The Talmud teaches, "Charity saves from death". Charity given in the name of a deceased beloved one preserves the beloved name. It will never die in its living memorial. In many ancient societies, the dead were revered, worshipped, almost as gods. In these societies food and good things were taken from the hungry mouths of the living and brought to graveside so that the dead might eat and bless the living, who feared their rampaging souls. Not so in Judaism. Our religion taught that the living do not have to appease the dead, but the dead must bless the living. And the dead bless the living when charity is done in their memory, and their name carries on what was the noble spirit of their life. One of our life-affirming customs is this giving in the name of those who have passed on and have lost their ability to give.

It has taken four thousand years to build this wonderful religion of ours. Do you ever think how precious it is and that it needs you to understand it at its depths and to teach others about it?

## MInterested in Going to Rio de Janeiro?

Beth Am is participating in a very special World Union for Progressive Judaism exchange program between Miami and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. If you are in grades 9 - 12 and are interested in spending some time this summer in Brazil, this would be an excellent opportunity for you. Also we are presently looking for a Temple Beth Am family willing to host a teenage girl this summer who is coming from Sao Paulo, Brazil. If you are interested in either traveling to South America or hosting an exchange student, please contact Rabbi Goldstein at 667-6667.

### **Youth Interested in Singing!**

Audition for the **New Generations** (7th & 8th graders) and the **Troubadours** (9th through 12th graders will be held Tuesday nights during the month of April at 8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Tryouts for the **Beth Americans** (4th through 6th graders) will be held Tuesday nights beginning May 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

If you play the guitar and are interested in being a guitarist, auditions will also be held on Tuesday nights beginning May 10th. For more information, please contact David M. Schwartz at 595-0724.

Students in grades 4th through 9th interested in becoming a Junior Cantor for next year, may audition at any of the above times. Applicants may use any of the following songs for the try-out. Music and further information may be obtained from Susan Shane at 595-5549: Ma Yafeh Hayom, The Candle Blessing, Barchu, Sh'ma, V'shomru, May the Words, The Birthday Blessing, Adoration, Kiddush.

### 9th Grade Youth Groups - April Calendar

School Break - April 1-10

April 11
April 16
April 30
April 30
General meeting, 6:00 p.m., dinner
Picnic, Temple Grounds, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Carnival night and special 9th grade welcome into BAFTY, 7:30 - 11:30 at Temple

### Shabbat Cassettes Available for Purchase

Rabbi Hoffman has changed all of the Sabbath blessings and several Sabbath songs as part of his work in the 6th grade "Shabbat Experience". These songs have now been put on tape and those of you who wish to enrich your Friday evening table with the chanting and the singing that have been traditional in Jewish home may obtain a copy for \$2.50 by contacting Dorothy Herman at the Religious School office.

#### PASSOVER SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 29: 10:00 a.m., Passover Festival Service 6:00 p.m., Temple Seder in Social Hall

Monday, April 4: Lat day of Passover, Passover Yizkor

Memorial Service, 10:00 a.m., in

Memorial Service, 10:00 a.m., in Sanctuary

TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED TUE., MAR. 29 AND MON., APR. 4

B'Nai Mitzvah Saturday, April 2

Barnie, son of Eric, son of Mr. and Mrs. Salomon Crespi Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Zimmerman