



FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE, Friday, December 2, 1983, 7:30 p.m.

RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD

"A SEASON OF HOPE"

Candlelight Service - Youth Choir Will Sing

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE, Sat. Dec. 3, 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

— Calendar for December —

- Mid-Life Stress Raps Thur. Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. Rm. 101
 Family Service, Chanukah
 Candlelight Service ... Fr. Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
 Citywide Singles Service ... Fri. Dec. 2, 10 p.m., Sanctuary
 Congregational Torah Svce. Sat. Dec. 3, 11:15 a.m.
 Contemporaries
 Lunch Mtg. Sun. Dec. 4, 2 p.m., Social Hall
 Adult Education Mon. Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Rm. 101
 ("Romance in the Bible", Rabbi Lipson)
 Judaism Class,
 Rabbi Simon Wed. Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Rm. 23
 Hebrew Language,
 Beginners Wed. Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Rm. 24
 Intermediate, L. Kipper Wed. Dec. 7, 8:30 p.m., Rm. 24
 LAST CHANUKAH CANDLE Wed. Dec. 7, at sundown
 PATIO Meeting Thur. Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m., Rm. 101
 ANNUAL CHANUKAH
 FESTIVAL Fri. Dec. 9, 8:15 p.m., Choir Sings
 Congregational Torah
 Svce. Sat. Dec. 10, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.
 Religious Service Fri. Dec. 16, 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary
 Congregational Torah Svce. Sat. Dec. 17, 11:15 a.m.
 — NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/MONDAY NITE SCHOOL —
 DEC. 17 TO JAN. 7
 Calabash Club Wine
 & Cheese Sat. Dec. 17, 8 p.m., Youth Lge.
 Brotherhood Breakfast Sun. Dec. 18, 9:30 a.m.
 — NO NURSERY/DAY SCHOOL —
 MON. DEC. 19 UNTIL TUE. JAN. 3
 Temple Board Meeting ... Tue. Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m., Rm. 101
 Religious Service Fri. Dec. 23, 8:15 p.m., Choir Sings
 Congregational Torah Svce. Sat. Dec. 24, 11:15 a.m.
 Religious Service Fri. Dec. 30, 8:15 p.m.
 Torah Service Sat. Dec. 31, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

Do Your Chanukah Shopping

at

The Judaica Shop

Chanukah Candlelight Service

featuring

THE YOUTH CHOIR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, 7:30 P.M.

Chanukah Musical Festival

featuring

BETH AM ADULT CHOIR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9th, 8:15 P.M.

Candlelight Service Friday, Dec. 2nd, 7:30 p.m. Chanukah Begins Wednesday, November 30th

The annual Beth Am candlelight ceremony will be held on Friday evening, December 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. All those attending the service should bring a Chanukah candle wrapped in tinfoil which will be lit during the service. At this service, the Youth Choir will sing a special program of Chanukah music.

This service is one of the most striking to be held at Beth Am throughout the year.

The Chanukah holiday starts on Wednesday, November 30th, and continues for eight days terminating at sundown on Dec. 8th. Your first candle for Chanukah should be lit on the first night, November 30th, and the last candle on the night of Dec. 7th.

The following week, on December 9th, the Adult Choir will present its Annual Chanukah Musical Festival at 8:15 p.m.

Birthday Blessings at Family Service Dec. 2nd

Parents are urged to call in the names of their children to the Temple Office if they celebrate their birthdays during the month of December. Bring your child to the Family Service this Friday night, December 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. for their special blessing.

WHO CAN BECOME A GUARDIAN?

Recently, we received a question in the Temple Office asking how you become a Guardian. It is really very simple. The status of "Guardian" involves a pledge of \$10,000, payable over four years, either to a specific project such as the Sanctuary or the Learning Center, or to the general category of "Guardian."

At a recent meeting of the Capital Funds Committee, it was agreed that the Temple should concentrate on developing the level of giving represented by the "Guardian" status without any specific project in mind. As the Temple matures, there is an ever increasing need for capital funds to refurbish and repair our existing buildings. It was felt that the "Guardian" status should be kept open at all times.

In other words, the Guardian campaign is an ongoing campaign. We hope that those members who can afford to become Guardians not only for the first time, but for the second time, will join this effort.

Each Guardian of the Temple will be awarded an artistically designed plaque, at a special function.

We hope our members will be inspired to join the caring Guardian families of Temple Beth Am.

Judaica Shop Hours

Monday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

or by special appointment - call

Miriam Cohen at 667-6667 or 665-1046



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

"Why Do Good People Suffer"

The following is an excerpt from the sermon given during the High Holidays. A full copy of the sermon is available from the Rabbi's office.

Out of Persia around 500 BCE came the view that evil and suffering come into the world because of a god who specializes in evil. The world, taught Zoroaster, is a battle ground between two gods, a good god and a bad god. If there is suffering, Zoroaster taught, it is surely not because of the good god, but simply that he doesn't have the power to overcome the force of the bad god. And so Ahura Mazda, the god of light, and Ahriman, the god of darkness, fight for supremacy in your life and in the world.

This simple formula of Zoroaster is very tempting. It puts everything into neat categories, and New Testament Christianity accepted this explanation for the existence of evil. In the New Testament, the bad god is called Satan or Lucifer. Many a fundamentalist preacher today calls his adherents to fight the Devil who, the preacher claims, is trying to influence them at all times. Flip Wilson, the black comedian who used to have a TV series, had a character who always explained away his misdeeds by saying, "The Devil made me do it". The problem with the doctrine of the two competing gods is that it does away with the idea of human responsibility. If the battle is between two gods, all we have to do is sit around and watch.*

The Prophet of the exile, Isaiah, had to deal with Zoroastrian teaching in the land of Babylonia which the Persians had conquered. There is not a god of evil, taught Isaiah, the supreme monotheist. It is the good God who punishes us and brings evil to us, but only as a parent who wishes to correct His children; and this good and punishing God also forgives eagerly! Isaiah hears God saying this to His people in exile, "For a small moment have I forsaken thee, but with great compassion will I gather thee; in a little wrath, I hid my face from thee, for only a moment, but with everlasting kindness will I have compassion on you". Out of this doctrine of the punishing but compassionate God, ultimately emerges the teaching that God Himself suffers when His people suffer. "In all of our affliction", declared the prophet, "He has been afflicted", "B'chol tz'rahtahm lo tzar."

Two thousand years after Isaiah, the Jewish mystics called this suffering aspect of God, the Sh'chinah, the feminine or feeling aspect of God; but the mystics rejected the idea that God brings evil. The mystics taught the world would be an ideal place if it was up to God, but the problem is that God's full power never reaches the world. The Cabbalists speak of God's power as a great light, which, as it strives to permeate the world, is filtered out or blocked out by the stuff of human failings. Evil, they taught, is the result of God's power being muted.

According to the Jewish mystics, we humans have to prepare ourselves to receive God's light and to transmit it into society. To handle this awesome responsibility of mediating God's power, we Jews have to become students of God's law, the Torah, and we have to become masters at the art of prayer. To the extent that we are not true vessels for the flow of God's spirit into the world, we are responsible for both human pain and God's pain. The mystics tried to avoid the heresy of saying that God was not all-powerful and that He could not control all the forces of chaos. They placed the blame for the existence of evil on imperfect human beings. Dr. Henry Slonimsky, my great teacher, taught that disasters like the holocaust could not be squared with the concept of a good God who is also all-powerful. God is the Author of galaxies and atoms, taught Dr. Slonimsky; His greatness is beyond our comprehension, but He does not control all things. Said Dr. Slonimsky, "What if God Himself is imperfect, and what if God is growing, ever striving to gain more control over the events of the world and

(continued in column on right)

**Wine & Cheese Party For Calabash Club
Sat. Dec. 17th - 8:00 pm**

The Calabash Club, the young singles ages 20-30, will be holding a wine and cheese dance on Sat., Dec. 17th. We are in the process of forming a steering committee for this group. If you are interested in helping, or would like additional information, please call the Temple Office at 667-6667. More details on wine and cheese party to be announced shortly.

JOAN'S JEMS by Joan Schwartzman

Mazel tov to Millie and Bob Infeld who have become grandparents for the first time. Their children Terri and Augustine Toruno presented them with their grandson Adam weighing in at 8 lbs. and 8 ounces... During the month of October Joe Solomon and Bob Miller received the Florida Association of the American Institute of architects award for excellence in building construction and craftsmanship for a project called for the execution of veneered brick building. Bob and Joe are the owners of Miller and Solomon which has built all of Beth Am's edifices... More good news... We are pleased to announce the recent marriage of Matthew Fishman to Robin Lipson. Matthew is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fishman. The young couple were married at Temple Sinai in Marblehead, Massachusetts... If you would like something creative for your children during the winter break there are art classes at the Lowe for youngsters 9 thru 12 years of age and our younger children 5 - thru 8 years in general crafts. For more info., call 284-3535.

We are delighted to share the news that Michael Safren who is first grader in our Day School had a role in the recent production of the T.V. movie Kennedy. Michael is the son of Harold and Stephanie Safren... Our young people are most creative... just heard that Lloyd Brass son of Dr. Phillip and Blanche will be appearing in the play "The Show Off" starring Jean Stapleton at the Royal Poinciana and Parker Playhouse. Kudos to Dr. Phyllis Yawitt who received a post doctorate fellowship at Jackson Memorial Hospital in the Behavioral Medicine Unit in rehabilitative psychology.

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, December 3

11:15 a.m.



Matthew, son of
Dr. and Mrs. Peter Millheiser



Staci, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schatzman

thus turning it more toward the good?" For Dr. Slonimsky, the cosmic conflict is not between a good god and a bad god, but between the good and only God and chaos.

What are the ramifications of a belief in one good God who is Himself growing as He wants us to grow? The ramifications are that you and I have to be more godlike. You and I have to understand that God is not going to do it all. He needs our help. Moses understood this when he heard God say, "I hear the cry of my suffering people in Egypt, and I need you to help me liberate them". In a very real sense, we are the hands and eyes of God. His mission and ours is the same -- we must grow in goodness and power to combat evil.

**Many Christians today do not view Satan as an eternal being with supernatural powers; in Judaism, Satan has been considered as merely a fallen angel with no real power (see Job).*