

May 27, 1983
Volume 18, Issue 21

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, May 27, 1983, 8:15 p.m.

CONFIRMATION CREATIVE SERVICE

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, May 28, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

Postmaster: Send change of address to:
Temple Beth Am, 5950 North Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156

Caren Ridge and David Hyams Win Calie Loss Award

Toward the end of each year the Beth Am Hebrew School selects students who are worthy of singling out for best achievement academically during the year. This year Caren Ridge, who is a product of the Beth Am afternoon Hebrew School all the way from Kitah Alef (first class), and David Hyams, who is a product of the Beth Am Day School, were selected for fluency in reading, comprehension, and diligence of effort.

At the Friday evening service on April 29, which was two days before Lag B'Omer (Scholars' Day) these two students were called to the pulpit and presented with beautiful plaques by Calie Loss, in whose name the Award for Outstanding Achievement has been established. Calie Loss was for many years the head teacher of the Beth Am Hebrew School during the 60's and 70's.

A "Hands On" Experience At Beth Am Computer Camp



There has been a lot of interest stimulated by our recent announcement of the Computer Camp at Beth Am this summer. The Computer Camp will be limited to children ages 9-14. Each session will be of two weeks duration starting June 20th. Each daily session will be 3½ hours long.

All members should study the brochure recently mailed to the congregation. Classes will be limited in size to no more than 20 students per class, with two instructors for all classes. In other words, there will be ten students per instructor. Each student will have the use of a personal computer for the entire session. Advance courses will be offered for those interested.

Register now and give your child a learning experience this summer.

Confirmands to Conduct Service, Friday, May 27th Confirmation Exercise, Sunday, May 29th, 9:45 a.m.

The theme of the Confirmation Exercise this year is "The Living Sanctuary." A special group under the tutelage of Rabbi Baumgard, Dorothy Herman, and Professor Michelson have prepared the narration. Interspersed in the narration will be dances created by a special group under the direction of Shira Baumgard, and songs sung by another group directed by David Schwartz. Sandy Goldman and Gary Eisenberg are supervising the group which is preparing the elaborate artwork. The Exercise will be presented on Sunday, May 29th, at 9:45 a.m.

An original creative service will be presented by still another group of Confirmands, directed by Rabbis Robert Goldstein and Norman Lipson as part of the Friday evening service on May 27th at 8:15 p.m. This service will have creative prayers, special songs and visual material.

Approximately ninety young people will attain to the honor and privilege of Confirmation which has high standards of achievement.

High School Graduation For Twelve Young People

Twelve High School Seniors, who have stayed on in the Beth Am High School Judaica Program, will be graduated as part of our special Exercises on Sunday, May 29th, at 9:45 a.m. These youngsters voluntarily stayed on to take intensive courses for which they get college credit. The program is conducted in collaboration with the Central Agency for Jewish Education which conducts similar programs around the country.

These young people take special courses in Jewish history, culture and religion under the finest of teachers.

Those graduating this year include: Michelle Baren, Laura Battle, Barbara Essinger, Andrew Hellinger, Karen Josefsberg, Karen Korn, Staci Lipcon, Elise Lipoff, Alan Nathans, Linda Sablitsky, Mark Salzberg, Gregory Stewart.

The Committee of 100

"Committee of 100" Seeks Members

In a special appeal to current members of "The Committee of 100" the following families have volunteered to rejoin The Committee for the Fiscal Year which starts July 1, 1983. There is no limit to the number of families needed for this Committee. All new members are welcome. Can you join?

Filmore and Judith Chaiken
Stephen and Elisabeth Frank
Barry and Nancy Goldstein
Stephen and Dale Kulvin
Albert and Joan Morrison, Jr.
Jack and Ann Orkin
Jose and Hortense Rappaport
Monroe and Eve Scheiner
William and Marcia Silver
Manuel and Aganes Stern
Peter and Judy Weissman
Stanley and Stella Young

**Registration Forms
For 1983 - 84
To Be Mailed
June 1st**





FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Is Marriage Viable?

Recently I gave a sermon on the subject, "Is Marriage Viable in Today's Society". The sermon was well received and there were many demands for copies. Unfortunately, I speak only from notes most of the time, so I am including some of the high points in this column for those who are interested.

In spite of the fact that there are as many applications for divorce each year as there are applications for marriage, the fact remains that most people who get divorced get remarried. Divorce can be terribly destructive on both parties, and during the strains of the post-divorce period, many people say, "I will never get married again," but most of them do. One does not have to be a prophet to predict that the institution of marriage, which has been central to human society since prehistoric times, will survive the current turmoil. The ancient Rabbis speak of the natural need of man and woman for each other in terms of this legend: "The original person created by God was androgynous, i.e., both male and female. Subsequently this person subdivided to produce a male and a female. Ever since then, the male and female have sought each other out as if searching for part of themselves." There is a profound truth to this legend, not only psychologically but biologically as well.

In ancient times, and indeed until recently, marriages were arranged and divorce was rare. Expectations were low and the impulse for changing and switching was low. One of the main purposes of marriage was to have children to help with the chores on the farm or in the raising of food-providing animals. In marrying a man, a woman gained not only a husband but a claim to property which was invested in the family, and a whole retinue of relatives. She felt security in having a "place".

In today's society, there is an increasing emphasis on the individual rather than the family. Property passes more freely from one individual to another, rather than through the family. Women can have their own "place" without being attached to a man or to a family. There is now a clash in our society between family needs and individual needs. Expectations for individual satisfaction are higher, and it is rarely true that these expectations are met. With increased possibilities for individual freedom, there is an increase in disappointment when individual satisfaction at the highest level is not achieved.

The happiest people today are those who are able to reconcile their needs as individuals and their obligations to the family. The divorce rate will recede when more people are able to make this adjustment. The husband who runs around with his secretary without understanding that this is an attack on his family is a clear example of a person who has not made this adjustment. The woman who feels that her career is more important than her children is another such example. The anxiety felt in many families today is that one of the spouses is playing by the old rules (the family first) and another is playing by the new license (the individual first). We will continue to see great churning in our society until these two claims are adjusted. Right now we are obviously seeing an exaggerated emphasis being placed on pleasures of the individual (as against the needs of the family). That is because the rights of the individual are the "new" discovery and the "in" thing. This emphasis will change because it is leading us to chaos.

Some "chochmahs, wise-sayings" to investigate. "Marriage is not a 50-50 proposition; it is a 100-100 proposition." (Each person has to give everything he/she can, if it is to work. This may well mean that in some areas one person will give a great deal more than the other, because each of us has a different ability to give in certain areas.) "The basis of marriage is mutual respect." (Don't treat your partner differently than you would want yourself treated. Don't do anything to him/her that you wouldn't want done to you.) "Don't forget to say thanks" (Don't take anything for granted. Say 'thanks' for the dinner; 'thanks' for the pay-check. You'll realize that you are receiving quite a bit and gladden your spouse.) "Don't be too proud to apologize." (You never lose anything by admitting you were wrong. Only the strong are able to apologize.) "Don't take advantage of your spouse's weakness."

(Continued in Column Alongside)

Confirmation Requirements

The overwhelming majority of Beth Am Religious School students (90%) go on to Confirmation. To be confirmed, the child must satisfactorily complete all requirements as a minimum:

- a) 8th - 10th grades
- b) Religious Service requirements
- c) Project requirements

Confirmation exercises in late May or early June (Sh'vuot) are a prime example of creative programming by the students and are one of the highlights of the congregational year.



Confirmation classes take place on Monday evening and include special academic enrichment courses designed for teen-agers. Some course titles: The Cults and You, Rap Session on Sex and Drugs, How to Get Along With Your Parents and Peers, Revolutionary Ideas that Judaism Gave the World, How To Be A Reform Jew, Making Jewish Decisions, the Holocaust, Wisdom of Our Time, Bible and Midrash.

Confirmation is earned not granted. Each year from 90 to 100 students are confirmed at Beth Am, one of the largest classes in the nation.

JOAN'S JEMS by Joan Schwartzman

Mazel to Dr. Lawrence and Suzanne Fishman upon the engagement of their eldest son, Matthew to Robin Lipson. Matthew won the Silver Knight award in 1976, graduated magna cum laude from Harvard and now serves as Budget Director of the Mass. Dept. of Public Welfare. The young couple will marry in the fall... Eugene and Ida Dynner have much to "qvell about". Their granddaughter Carol Matz won the Silver Knight Award in the field of music. The Dynner's daughter Judy Dynner Matz was a religious school teacher many years ago. Mazel to all.

Much good news. We are proud to tell you that Sam Goldstein, son of Joy and Harold and husband of Sandy, has been inducted into the Federation of Temple Administrators. Sam was educated at Beth Am and went to serve as director of Temple Beth El in Boca Raton. Congrats to Craig, son of Betty and Millars Suid who graduated with a B.S. in Accounting at the University of FL. He will be associated with the firm of Houvath and Laventhal.

<i>B'Nai Mitzvah</i>		<i>Saturday, May 28</i>	
11:15 a.m.			
			
Nancy, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Levitt		Jennifer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Rich	

(Forgiveness and support are absolutely essential to a good marriage. The best of us have our weaknesses and make boo-boos.) "Don't be afraid to discuss your problems and needs with your spouse" (What is marriage without trust and sharing?)

The Jewish marriage ceremony ends with the blessing, "May God bless and watch over you...". The two verbs are the key to a successful marriage. What is marriage but an opportunity for "mutual blessing" and "mutual watching over". Are you a **blessing** to your spouse? Are you **watching over** him/her? Marriage is not just another arrangement. It is a sacrament. It is a holy covenant. Do you treat your spouse with this reverence?