

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, November 18, 1983, 8:15 p.m.

RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD

"SOULS ON FIRE," a review of a book by ELIE WIESEL  
In Honor of Jewish Book Month

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE, Sat. Nov. 19, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

# Beth Am Commentator

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

## Teddi Segal To Receive Harry Gunther Service Award At Services Fri. Night Nov. 18

The Harry Gunther Service Award will be given this year to Teddi Segal, a long time member of the Temple, who has been involved in all Temple activities. She will receive this award at the Friday night service on November 18th. This award is named after Harry Gunther, one of the original founding members of the Temple, who served as our Financial Secretary for the first fifteen years of the Temple's history. This award is not given every year, but is awarded only on special occasions to special people.

Teddi and her husband, Norton, have been members of the Temple for almost twenty years. Teddi has been active on the Board of Directors and currently serves as Recording Secretary and on our Executive Committee. She has chaired our Youth Committee for the past four years and has been instrumental in the success of our Cotillion program.

The Selection Committee has chosen wisely in selecting Teddi to receive this award.



## Last Call For Chanukah Workshop

On Wednesday, November 16, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., all congregants are invited to attend our annual Pre-Chanukah workshop, which will be held in the Social Hall. This workshop is open to all temple members and will feature a number of interesting and informative workshops and demonstrations all of which surround home celebration of the holiday of Chanukah.

In addition to workshops led by Rabbi Simon on Chanukah observance at home, our own Joan Schwartz will be leading a Chanukah goodies cooking seminar and there will also be a number of items from our Judaica gift shop which will be available for purchase. Since space is limited, we ask that you phone the temple office and indicate how many people will be coming from your family. We look forward to seeing you on November 16.

## "Souls on Fire" by Elie Wiesel Reviewed by Rabbi Baumgard, Nov. 18th

In honor of Jewish Book Month, Rabbi Baumgard will review the book "Souls on Fire" by Elie Wiesel at the Friday evening service of November 18th at 8:15 p.m. Rabbi Baumgard will use the book as a springboard to discuss the contribution of Hasidism to modern Judaism.

Rabbi Baumgard explains, "We consider Beth Am to be a Hasidic-Reform congregation, in the sense that we consciously take the emotional aspects of Hasidism and the rational aspects of Reform and try to blend them into a harmonious whole."

While Mr. Wiesel's book attempts to present the leaders and teachers of Hasidism as the "Souls on Fire" which they indeed were, Rabbi Baumgard will speak not only of these leaders but also of the special doctrines associated with them. Rabbi Baumgard will say, "Hasidism was an emotional revolt against Orthodoxy in its origins, whatever it has become in its modern manifestations. Its leaders tried to demonstrate that God was closer than breathing, which meant that He was best found in human relationships and in nature, rather than in intellectually oriented books like the Talmud. Hasidic leaders taught, "Judaism is the religion of people, rather than the religion of the Book".

As might be expected this revolt aroused the opposition of Talmudic scholars who feared that the people would be led away from study (as they were). "In spite of the problems of Hasidic excesses," Rabbi Baumgard will say, "it has given us an interpretation of Judaism which is tremendously important even to this day. All Jews should be, at least in part, Hasidic".

## Makeup Demonstration, Dec. 6th at Dadeland

Temple Beth Am SISTERHOOD and P.A.T.I.O. invite you to top off the new season with an upbeat demonstration by ADRIENE ARPEL on makeup, color and fashion. Enjoy a complimentary breakfast. Don't miss this terrific morning at Burdines Auditorium Dadeland, Tuesday December 6, 1983 at 9:00 a.m. **DOOR PRIZES!** R.S.V.P. with Rhoda by November 18 - 667-6667.

### 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.

### Announcing the Beth Am MENORAH CONTEST

Open to families

(the child must do a significant part of the work)

Prizes awarded in categories:

Pre-school - Kindergarten 1st - 3rd Grade  
4th - 6th Grade 9th - 10th Grade

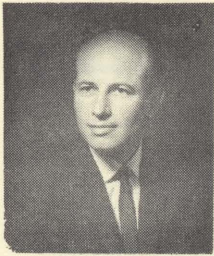
(First, Second and Third prizes in each category)

Decision based on - Originality, Symbolism, Overall

Quality, Neatness, Attractiveness

Phone - 666-2636 for information

**Deadline - Nov. 29th**



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

A New Study on Intermarriage\*

(Part Two)

Last week we discussed the recent survey reported by UPI indicating that when a Jew and a non-Jew married, and the non-Jew did not convert to Judaism, 92% of the children of such a marriage marry a non-Jew. The evidence supports those of us who have long held that, unless a marriage is committed to Judaism from the beginning, it tends to weaken the Jewish people. For that reason intermarriage (a marriage where each partner maintains his separate faith) can be a threat to Jewish survival.

Again, let us remind ourselves, that when a non-Jew converts to Judaism prior to the marriage, the marriage is not an intermarriage. A convert stands as a Jew under the chupah. The children of this kind of marriage, IF the marriage is a good one, and IF the parents work to establish Jewish commitment, can be good for the Jews. On the other hand, if the marriage is not a good one, it is not unusual for debates to develop, even if the non-Jew has converted, as to what is to happen to the children, religiously speaking. We must admit that bringing a non-Jew into our Jewish mishpachah carries risks. Sometimes we make a significant gain. Sometimes we lose grievously.

This brings us to the current debate on patrilineal descent. It has long been true in Jewish life that a child born to a Jewish mother was considered to be Jewish, no matter who the father was. On the other hand, even if there were a Jewish father, the child of a non-Jewish mother (unless she converted) was considered to be officially a member of the mother's faith. In its recent convention, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform) passed a resolution stating, "The child of any Jewish parent is presumed to be Jewish, and this presumption may be affirmed by active steps such as circumcision, naming in the synagogue, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, and the like."

The purpose of this resolution, which has been attacked by the Orthodox, was to encourage mixed-marriage families to register their children in our schools and to assure these families that we would be happy to work with them. Reform Rabbis are convinced that we have to do everything possible to save Jews for the future.

In Beth Am, we have always admitted children to our schools without inquiring about their pedigrees. We take such registration as a commitment by the parents to raise their children as Jews. We welcome such children with open arms. Similarly, we welcome couples to membership without asking their pedigrees. We assume that such membership is a commitment which delights us. We do not require conversion of a non-Jew who seeks admission to the Temple. Should they wish to go through the conversion process later, they are more than welcome.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, our parent organization, has established a national "Outreach Program" to mixed-married couples. Beth Am has always had its own such program. We want to help Jews remain Jews, we want to guide children of uncertain orientation into our faith, and we want to let non-Jews know that we are anxious to have them learn more about our religion. We Jews are not "savers of souls", but we do want to save our people.

Young Singles Schedule Wine & Cheese Party, Dec. 17th

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.

Calling High School Juniors and Seniors Tues., Nov. 22 in the Youth Lounge at 8 p.m.

Temple Beth Am is sponsoring a meeting for all college bound students on Tuesday, November 22nd at 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge.

Beth Weld and Sandy Stonberg of the Jewish Vocational Service will conduct a seminar covering the following:

- Selecting a College
Costs Involved
Scholarships
Social Life
Questions and Answers

Please call Rhoda at the Temple Office 667-6667 to reserve a spot.

Sisterhood's "Ideas Through Books" Meeting Notice

- TOPIC: "MARK TWAIN AND THE JEWS"
SPEAKER: RABBI JAY N. MILLER, Director Jewish Campus Centers of San Diego
DATE: \*\*\* WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1983, 9:30 a.m. for coffee 7:30 p.m. for dessert
PLACE: Morning: Home of Teddi and Norton Segal 625 Reinante Avenue, Gables RSVP: 667-5172 or Temple: 667-6667 Evening: Home of Marcia and Dr. Bill Silver 6949 Sunrise Drive, Gables RSVP: Temple: 667-6667

\*\*\* Note: Not usual Thursday

Interfaith Service Wednesday, Nov. 23rd

The annual community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at the St. Louis Catholic Church, 120th Street near 72 Avenue. Beth Am's Adult Choir will participate, as will Rabbi Baumgard. Last year's service was held at Beth Am. The service rotates between the various faiths in our community. Beth Am is anxious to have a good turnout. Please calendar Wednesday, November 23rd at 8:00 p.m.

Do Your Chanukah Shopping at The Judaica Shop

B'Nai Mitzvah Saturday, November 19 9:15 a.m. (No Photo Available) Elena, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Essen Seth Charles, son of Mr. Lee J. Leshaw 11:15 a.m. Jill, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Oren Brian, son of Dr. and Mrs. Melvin Rappaport