



February 10, 1984  
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RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, February 10, 1984, 8:15 p.m.

RABBI JAMES L. SIMON

"WE ARE MORE DISABLED THAN WE THINK"

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE, Sat. Feb. 11, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

## Beth Am Commentator

5950 North Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156  
Affiliated with U.A.H.C.

● Telephone: 667-6667  
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### ***Temple Presidents To Discuss, "Problems in Jewish Identity" February 19th at 9:30 AM***

Our annual Presidents' Day Brotherhood Breakfast Forum on Sunday morning, Feb. 19th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge will discuss the subject, "IF TORQUEMADA HAD ACCUSED YOU OF BEING JEWISH WOULD HE HAVE ENOUGH ON YOU FOR A CONVICTION - Problems in Jewish Identity." Speakers at this discussion will be:

Mr. Louis Feuer, Pres. of Temple Shir Ami  
Ms. Linda Hornick, former Pres. of Temple Or Olom  
Dr. Norman Bloom, former Pres. of Young Israel of Miami  
Mr. Frank Kreutzer, Pres. of United Synagogues of America

The enigma of who is a Jew seems simple - I say I am a Jew, therefore I am a Jew - not so. How Jewish do we have to be to be considered Jewish? Israel gives recognition to Orthodox Jews. In the U.S. many Reform temples are still ostracized by other areas of Judaism. In South America, the dislike of Reform Judaism has at times turned to violence. Would anti-Semites make such distinctions? Jewish communities have enough problems battling outside influences, must they also battle with their own? The officers of a Reform, Conservative and Orthodox synagogue will try to bring this question into a proper focus.

Admission to this all-you-can-eat Brotherhood Breakfast Forum will be \$2.50 for Brotherhood members and \$3 for non-members. Bring your friends and neighbors to a learning session and they will also enjoy the breakfast.

### **College Visitation - Philadelphia Area**

Rabbi Baumgard is planning a trip to Philadelphia on Wednesday, April 11th. He would like to visit with college students in that area at that time. If you know of a student in the Philadelphia area, please contact the Rabbi's office.

### **Al Vorspan Speaks March 1st on "Jews and the '84 Election"**

Al Vorspan, Vice President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, will speak at Beth Am on Thursday, March 1st, at 8 p.m. His topic will be, "Jews and the '84 Election." Mr. Vorspan has been a champion of social action in American Reform Judaism and has published many books. He is a nationally renowned author, speaker and observer of the American Jewish scene. He is a humorist and an astute analyst of the current political climate in the United States.

His appearance at Beth Am is co-sponsored by the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and several other local synagogues and agencies.

No admission fee to Temple members.

### **Creative Service by Contemporaries Feb. 17th at 8:15 pm**

You are all invited to attend the fourth creative service put together by the Contemporaries, scheduled for Friday, Feb. 17th, at 8:15 p.m. The theme is LOVE, which covers the gamut of many different kinds and qualities of love.

It has been put together by members of the Contemporaries, under the chairmanship of Betty Friedman, and promises to be an evening to remember -- with a message for EVERYONE.

Preceding the service, the Contemporaries are holding their annual shabbots dinner, catered by Corky's, chaired by Bernie Elrod, "waitered" by BAFTY, with entertainment by the inimitable Beth Americans.

To avoid being sorry, afterwards, that you missed it -- COME!!

### ***"Adolescence - When to Seek Help" Theme of Mental Health Evening March 5th at 7:30 pm***

The Mental Health Association of Dade County will be presenting an important evening of discussion on Adolescence at Beth Am on Monday, March 5th, from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Authorities in the field will be on hand to discuss these turbulent years and to advise parents as to how they might handle the many problems that adolescents manifest in today's difficult society. Joining in the panel discussion will be Anthony Knowles, M.D., Richard Toister, Ph.D., and James J. Mooney, ACSW.

The panelists will help parents recognize emotional problems in their adolescent children, offer methods for parental intervention, and provide resources and referral information.

The admission fee is three dollars per person and five dollars for an entire family. For further information call the Mental Health Association at 379-2673.

### **Prof. Yehudah Shamir Teaches Adults On "Mystics Vs. Rationalists" Starting Mar. 7th**

Professor Yehudah Shamir begins his series on behalf of the Beth Am Adult Education Institute on Wednesday evening, March 7th, at 8 p.m. in Room 103. The series is entitled, "Mystics Versus Rationalists." Professor Shamir, who has taught Jewish Mysticism and other Judaic subjects at the University of Miami for many years, will begin his five week course discussing Abraham Heschel and Martin Buber. He will also present the rationalists Mordecai Kaplan and Ahad Ha-Am. Franz Kafka will also be included. Registration is requested but not required.

The course is open to all Beth Am members and their friends without fee. Members of the Temple may count this course towards their Adult Confirmation or Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah graduation.

## **Single Parents and Children Retreat - Sunday March 18th**

*(See Details in Commentator Next Week)*

Current Events

## JOAN'S JEMS by Joan Schwartzman

Congrats are in order to Michael Goodman son of Bern and Evelyn who was awarded "the most valuable defensive team player for Palmetto Senior High football team". If you know our Mike you know he is a capable young man in all endeavors especially our Bafty youth program... We are delighted to have heard good things from Beth Amites Charles and Sandi Simon. The Simons' now reside in Caesarea, Israel. Their children are all involved with Jewish life in Israel. Shawn begins his military service; Sheryl her junior year at Kfar Hayarok, an agricultural high school. Daughter Patti just married Tomo Buncic. Mazel to a lovely family. We are glad to share the news that Amy daughter of Terry and Les Freedman just returned from a winter break visit to Brazil where she stayed with another Jewish family. This program is thru our international Reform student exchange program. Her friend from Brazil Vivien Kogut has visited the United States in return. Mazel to Barbara and Saul Genet upon the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Jackie to Steve Weinstein... We are delighted to welcome Sy and Rita Robbins into the first time "grandparent club". Born to their children David and Elba Robbins is a son, Jonathan Michael weighing in at a whopping 8 lbs. 6 ounces... Longtime member Louis Ziff is confined to his home and would love to hear from a fellow member. Give him a call to say hello at 665-2169...



### FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

#### The Military Mind - The Thin Line Between Hero and Villain

(Part One)

The following is a reprint of an original article which first appeared in The Jewish Floridian. It will be presented in two parts.

A close friend of mine was a delicatessen owner. In World War II, he was sent to the front as a combat officer. Once he was trying to find his way through a small forest when he was attacked by a German soldier at close range. Throwing himself upon the soldier, my friend turned his bayonet into his body and stabbed him over and over long after the German was dead. My friend told me, "I will never forget my own fury fueled by fear as I stood over this man and continued to vent my rage and desperation." War transforms us into devils. We Americans did not start World War II, but being human, once we took up the bayonet, we committed our share of atrocities.

The Rabbis of the Talmud established the rule that you were entitled to use violence in self-defense, but they were most reluctant to establish fixed precedents which would authorize the use of force. Each incident must be judged on its own merits, the Rabbis taught. Why couldn't they describe a specific rule for a specific situation? "Maybe the attacker's blood is redder than yours," they mused. The notion that the thief, the criminal, the attacking soldier is also a human being with a value of his own is a precious Jewish teaching. The Rabbis knew that once we specifically authorize violence, the defender is in danger of stepping over the line of appropriate ethical action.

Nowhere is this danger more obvious than in the case of the professional soldier. The professional soldier learns how to kill expertly. Killing becomes his business, his art. His talent is needed to protect the state from those who seek to destroy it or to enslave its citizens. Professional soldiers perform an important function for the citizenry they try to protect, but unless the soldiers remember how simple it is to step over the line from protector to destroyer, they can become a menace even to the state they presume to protect.

That American soldiers stepped over this line in destroying the village of Mai Lai in Vietnam is a case history in point. There are other more subtle examples to illustrate the problem. Gen. Douglas MacArthur was Commander-in-Chief of American forces in the Orient when the North Koreans invaded South Korea. MacArthur's armies pushed the invaders back, but once the General had done that, he had to make a decision. Did he wish merely to defend or to go on the offensive? MacArthur wanted to punish these Communists, so he led his armies well into North Korea.

The Chinese, fearing that MacArthur was getting too close to their borders, sent their soldiers in to defend North Korea. MacArthur then spoke of invading China and bombing key Chinese cities. Clearly MacArthur had crossed the line between self-defense (defense of the free world) and punitive military actions. Fortunately, President Truman was equal to the occasion, and when MacArthur challenged the President's right to limit his army's progress, Truman had to relieve MacArthur of his command.

(to be continued)

### A Place of Honor For Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parents

On Friday nights the first row in the Sanctuary will be reserved for the parents and family of our youngsters who will be called to the Torah as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah the following day. Please leave these seats vacant for the families.

### Moms and Toddlers Group

Play and learning experiences for toddlers between 2-2½ years old, includes multisensory play: music, art and movement, plus discussion time for mothers. Bring any questions you may have concerning your toddler: negativism, discipline, toilet training, etc.

This group will meet in the Beth Am Gym on six Wednesdays beginning February 29th, from 10-11 a.m.

The fee for Temple members is \$30 for the series, payable in advance. Please call Shoshi at 667-6667 to reserve space in this limited group.

The leaders are three experts:

- 1) Irene Schatz, M.S.W., Early Childhood Educator, Clinical Social Worker
- 2) Susan Gold, M. Ed., Doctoral candidate, Early Childhood Educator, Pres. Fla. Council of Parent Cooperative Preschools.
- 3) Dorothy Rutchik, M.S.W., Clinical Social Worker, Counselor in Pediatric Practice.

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, February 11

9:15 a.m.



Laura, daughter of  
Dr. and Mrs. Karl Kramer



Andrew son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Sandor Magnes

11:15 a.m.



Mark



Martin

sons of  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clein