



RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, March 29, 1985, 8:15 p.m.
 Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard
 "JERRY FALWELL AND THE JEWS"
 CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE
 Saturday, March 30, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.
 Torah Portion: Tzav, Lev. 6:1-8:36

Beth Am Commentator

5950 North Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156 • Telephone: 667-6667
 Affiliated with U.A.H.C. Subscription Price \$2.50 yearly

This Is Last Week For Early Registration!



A summer of loving and caring
 are ahead for your child at
Beth Am Day Camp this year

Register Now! Camp starts June 24th

Re-Confirmation Dates For 1986-87 Due Now!

If your child is to be Bar/Bat Mitzvah during the calendar years 1986 or 1987, you have received a RE-CONFIRMATION LETTER. Fill out the pertinent information and mail today.

If we do not hear from you by June 30th, we will cancel your reservation. Call Joan Schwartzman at 667-6667 for information.

Last Call — Reserve Now! Annual Congregational Seder

Saturday, April 6th, 6:00 p.m., Social Hall
(on the second night of Passover)

SEDER DINNER: The traditional Seder dinner will be catered.

PARTICIPANTS: Our Rabbis will lead the narration.

RESERVATIONS: First-come, first-served basis. Please clip the coupon below and mail with check.

SEATING: *The seating plan for the Social Hall will be as follows: long tables will be placed toward the front of the room and round tables that seat ten will be in the rear of the room.*

TO: BETH AM SEDER RESERVATIONS
 5950 North Kendall Drive, Miami 33156

FROM: _____
 Name (please print) Address Phone

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING

MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- ___ Adults @ \$17.50 each \$ _____
- ___ Children 4 to 12 yrs. @ \$10.00 each \$ _____
- ___ Children 3 and under @ \$ 5.00 each \$ _____

NON-MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- ___ Adults @ \$22.50 each \$ _____
- ___ Children 4 to 12 yrs. @ \$12.50 each \$ _____
- ___ Children 3 and under @ \$ 7.50 each \$ _____

Please seat us with the following: _____

We will have a total of _____ people.

Passover, A Wonderful Home Holiday, Begins Friday Evening April Fifth

The first home Seder for Passover will be held on Friday evening, April 5th. It is hoped that all Jews will be at a Seder on that evening. Because of the coincidence of the Sabbath and Passover, there will be **no late service on Friday night**. Instead there will be a brief "minyan" service promptly at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Saturday morning service will be held at the usual time, 11:15 a.m. and both the Sabbath and Passover themes will be emphasized.

The annual **Temple Seder** will be held on Saturday evening, **April 6th, at 6 p.m.** Our Rabbis will conduct, assisted by Dr. Jonathan Baumgard as lead singer. Jon is a former song leader at Camp Coleman. This is a warm modernized Seder and reservations are suggested because of limits in space.

On Friday evening, candles are lit both for the Sabbath and for the festival (the same candles will serve, with the blessings slightly changed). The blessing over the wine is also made. Following are the home prayers:

1. Candles are lit - Bah-ruch Ah-tah Ah-do-nai Eh-loh-hay-nu Meh-lech Ha-oh-lahm Ah-Sher Kid'shah-nu B'mitz-voh-tah V'tzi-vah-nu L'had-lik Nare Shel Shabbat V'yom-tov.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם. אשר קדשנו
 במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של שבת ויום טוב.

Thanks be to You, oh Lord, Our God, King of the Universe, Who leads us to holiness through the commandment to kindle the Sabbath and Festival lights.

2. Wine Is Drunk (abbreviated version) - Bah-ruh Ah-tah Ah-don-nai Eh-loh-hay-nu Meh-lech Ha-oh-lahm Boh-ray P'ree Ha-Gah-fen.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם בורא פרי הגפן:

Thanks be to You, Oh Lord Our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine. We drink this wine in remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt and as a reminder that You are the Creator of all things.

3. Festival Blessing - Bah-ruch Ah-tah Ah-doh-nai Eh-loh-hay-nu Meh-lech Ha-oh-lahm Sheh-hech-cheh-yah-nu V'ki-mah-nu V'hi-gi-yah-nu Laz'man Ha-zeh

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שהחיינו
 וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה:

Thanks be to you, Oh Lord Our God, King of the Universe, Who has kept us alive and preserved us and enabled us to experience this wonderful Festival.

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



They Are After Us - The Conversion Game

Forced conversion was a constant threat to the Jews of Europe in the long centuries that followed our expulsion from Jerusalem by the Romans in 135 CE. (AD). In modern times, the seekers of Jewish souls are using more subtle techniques.

The customary threat is, "If you don't accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you will go to eternal Hell". This can be frightening for those who accept the reality of a God who has reserved such a terrible fate for those who will not accept Christianity. A more subtle appeal is to say, "You can join us, the majority, and still remain a Jew. If you become a Christian you are only a FULFILLED Jew, as Jesus was". This appeals to those who want to be "one-up" on their parents. They like the idea of opposing their parents and yet being "a better Jew" than their parents.

In spite of these oblique appeals to a susceptible Jewish child, not many of our young people convert to Christianity. They are more susceptible to the Moonies and to Hari Krishna. The cults offer the option of something OTHER than Christianity, so that the child does not have to feel guilty about the kind of conversion about which his parents have long warned him. These cults offer the illusion of something NEW, something DIFFERENT, something MYSTERIOUS. They also offer a cause. Young people caught in the snares of these cults are taught that they are NEEDED, that they are IMPORTANT. No matter that they must surrender their individuality. They are given a place in a group and they are made to feel that they have an important role to play. The easiest prey for this kind of cult is the child with an inferiority complex who has been made to feel, in one way or another, that he/she is not "making it" in general society. This child is probably not the best student and feels himself a failure. On the other hand, the family is probably affluent and has never asked the child to contribute to the family's needs, so he feels no sense of purpose.

Now comes news that in Texas there is a great battle between the Mormons and the evangelical Baptists. The evangelical Baptists can only offer heaven for the faithful. The Mormons offer the prospect of becoming divine (for the male). Newsweek tells us that the Mormons are converting fifty people a day to their faith in Texas. No doubt this battle will spread to other parts of the country.

Meanwhile, how are we Jews doing with respect to converting others to our faith? The answer is we are not doing badly at all. Of course, we do not go out and proselytize, but there are many adults today who for one reason or another (usually the possibility of marriage) are investigating Judaism. The vast majority of those who investigate Judaism ultimately convert. Judaism has a great appeal for a wide range of Americans.

It is important for Jews to know, however, that there are increasing numbers of groups after us. The Seventh Day Adventists, for example, are now distributing a magazine called, "The New Israelite" to Jewish homes. Most of the articles are friendly to Jews and to Israel. Indeed, you might think it is a Jewish magazine. The very name of the magazine, however, suggests the purpose of its publishers. The thrust of early Christianity was that Christians were the NEW Israel. We are supposedly rejected by God and they are in.

What can we Jews do? First of all, we have to find out all we can about our faith. Jews who were immersed in Judaism, through all the cruel centuries of persecution in Europe, would not change their faith. The problem is that most American Jews are relatively ignorant and non-practicing! Jews who do not know Jewish sources and who do not experience the regular pleasure of Jewish rituals are ripe for conversion.

Beth Am provides excellent Adult Ed courses. But if you don't have the discipline to sit in for a five week course, why not visit the Beth Am Library, which is an unusually fine synagogue Library, and go at your own pace, or you can pick up a copy of "Gates of The Seasons" in our Judaica Shop and start practicing one ritual at home (preferably the

Introduction to Judaism Class Starts April 10th

Another semester of the Temple's Introduction To Judaism Class will begin on Wednesday night, April 10th, at 8 p.m. in the Arts and Crafts Room. This popular and informative course is open to all Temple members, Jews as well as non-Jews, as well as those non-members who are interested in exploring the possibility of conversion. The fourteen week course is taught by Rabbi Simon, and if you are interested or know of anyone who is interested, please make sure they contact him at the Temple. Our Introduction To Judaism Class is entering its thirteenth year, and features demonstrations, films, as well as lectures by a number of talented individuals, including our own Rabbi Baumgard.

JOAN'S JEMS by Joan Schwartzman

Beth Amite A. Budd Cutler will present a lecture sponsored by the American Society of Law and Medicine bridging the fields of medicine and law. He will speak at St. Petersburg, Florida. We are proud to share the news that Lisa Behren, daughter of Richard and Leta has become the Press Secretary on the Hill for Congressman Larry Smith. We applaud this young woman who previously served as press secretary for the Israel press. Saul and Barbara Genet are elated. They are grandparents for the first time. Born to their children Jackie and Steven Weinstein is a son Yehuda Meir.... Matthew Nash, 2 year old son of Craig and Deidre Nash has a new cousin. Ryan Nash was born to Dr. and Mrs. Roger Nash of Orlando. Proud grandparents once again are Dr. Norman and Barbara Nash.... Mazel! Congratulations to Jeannette Elrod who has been named Woman of the Year by Zonta International, Miami Chapter. She was honored by the organization for her outstanding service to the community. Among her many activities she has volunteered over 2,500 hours as a volunteer at Baptist Hospital. Bravo! Mazel tov to Garnette and Ben Friedman who have become great-grandparents for the first time. Born to their grandchildren Lisa and Sib DeLiberato is a son Brandon Joseph. Mazel!

Blood Drive Set for May 5th in Social Hall

On Sunday, May 5th, between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Beth Am will aid the South Florida Blood Service in supplying blood.

Consider becoming a volunteer blood donor. Pledge your pint of blood by calling Sydell Oltchick at 251-3183 or give your pledge when our phone committee calls you. Brotherhood, as usual, will supply a fantastic breakfast.

ANNUAL PASSOVER WORKSHOP

Wednesday, March 27th, 7:30 p.m. Social Hall

How to Run a Seder! Games, Cooking, Music!

(Call Rabbi Simon 667-6667)

B'Nai Mitzvah

9:15 a.m.



Meredith, daughter of
Nancy Alfred Persily and the late
Andrew Persily

Saturday, March 30

11:15 a.m.



Jason, son of
Mr. and Mrs. F. David Halberg

Friday night ritual), just ONE. You'll be surprised at the pleasure you will experience. The rational and emotional understanding of Judaism should go hand in hand. Your children will benefit from your experience.