

Our 30th Year

November 15, 1985
Volume 11, Issue 39

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, November 15, 1985, 8:15 p.m.

Installation of Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard
As President of Synagogue Council of America

RABBI ARTHUR LELYVELD and GOV. REUBEN ASKEW
Guest Speakers

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE
Saturday, November 16th, 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

• Telephone: 667-6667
Subscription Price \$2.50 yearly

New Torah To Be Dedicated Sunday, November 24th, 11:15 a.m.

The Temple will dedicate a new Torah in a ceremony known as "Siyum Ha-Torah", on Sunday morning, November 24th at 11:15 a.m. Purchase of the Torah was made possible by a gift from the family of Leonard and Gloria Luria in memory of Frances A. Biren.

The informal ceremony will include a Torah procession. Since every Jew is traditionally required to "write a Torah", this ceremony makes it possible for many to complete that requirement symbolically. When a Torah is written, a number of letters are left blank at the end. Donors of the Torah and their friends are given the opportunity to fill in the blanks and thus get credit for "writing" a Torah. All are invited to attend the ceremony and get credit also, since one letter will be left for the benefit of those who are present.

The Temple and the Luria family invite all Temple members and their friends to be present on this joyous occasion.

Rabbi Mark Kram and Dr. Felix Estrada To Discuss Abortion at Breakfast Nov. 17th

About 21 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a ruling on the question of abortion. The Reagan administration has petitioned the Supreme Court to reopen the question on abortion, hoping for the Court to deliberalize its original decision. The speakers at the next Brotherhood Breakfast Forum on Sunday morning, Nov. 17th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge will address this problem as, "WHAT I WOULD TELL THE SUPREME COURT ABOUT ABORTION."

Participants will be:

Rabbi Mark Kram, Hillel Director, U.S.

**Dr. Felix Estrada, nationally known neo-natologist
Evelyn Goodman, President of Beth Am, will be the
Moderator.**

Admission to this all-you-can-eat Brotherhood Breakfast Forum will be \$3 for Brotherhood members and \$3.50 for non-members. All are invited.

Jewish Book Month

JEWISH BOOK MONTH begins on November 9th and the library will feature two exhibits during the 4 weeks which follow. One is a time line illustrating immigration patterns and family histories. The other is background material and documents accumulated by Jean Soman for her book YOUR TRUE MARCUS. Details will follow in future issues of the COMMENTATOR. The dates to remember are November 9th to December 9th. In keeping with Jewish Book Month tradition, Rabbi Simon will review a book. The date is Friday evening, November 29th and the book is titled CONVERSATIONS WITH ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER.

Margot Berman, Librarian

Rabbi Baumgard To Be Installed As President, Synagogue Council of America Friday, November 15th, 8:15 P.M.

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld of Cleveland, Ohio, a Past President of The Synagogue Council of America, will represent that organization in installing Rabbi Baumgard as the current President at part of the Friday evening service, November 15th, 8:15 p.m. Reuben Askew, immediate past Governor of the State of Florida will also speak.

The Synagogue Council of America is the umbrella organization which includes the major institutions of all branches of Judaism in America, Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. The constituent organizations include, The United Synagogue and The Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism, The Union of Orthodox Congregations and the Rabbinical Council of America of Orthodox Judaism, and The Union of American Hebrew Congregations and The Central Conference of American Rabbis of Reform Judaism. Some three thousand congregations are represented by these organizations.

Rabbi Baumgard has been through a period of four years when he has been respectively Second Vice-President and then First Vice-President of the Synagogue Council of America. His term as President will be two years.

The Synagogue Council of America represents the Jewish community in relating to the National Council of Churches and the National Council of Catholic Bishops. On the international scene it represents American synagogues when relating to the national bodies of other countries and in relation to the Vatican and the World Council of Churches.

Rabbi Lelyveld, the installing officer, is Senior Rabbi of Fairmount Temple in Cleveland, and is a past President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the American Jewish Congress.

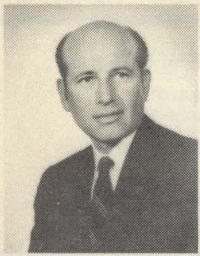
It's Time to Roll Up Your Sleeve



NOV. 24th IS BLOOD BANK SUNDAY AT BETH AM

The South Florida Blood Service Mobile unit will be at our Youth Lounge on Sunday, Nov. 24th between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please come and donate a pint of blood. You may also be the lucky winner of one of our fabulous door prizes. Please call Sydel Oltchick at 251-3183, and tell us you'll be there.

Brotherhood will serve a delicious breakfast to all donors (no lines) and we promise to get you in and out as soon as possible. See you Sunday, November 24th.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

**"Do You Believe
In Miracles?"
(Part Three)**

(The following is an excerpt from the Rosh Hashanah sermon. The entire sermon is available from the Rabbi's Office.)

Let me tell you about another one of the miracles I have experienced. Many years ago, I visited one of my members who was ill in Mt. Sinai Hospital in Manhattan, New York. In the next bed to my member was a young girl about five or six years old. Her mother, a Jewess, asked if she could talk to me, although she was not a member of my congregation. We went into the hallway, and the woman, who was obviously very anxious, told me that her daughter seemed to have a mass on her appendix. The doctors had told her that the mass visible on an x-ray was probably a tumor, and if it was a tumor, it might be cancerous. Obviously trying to pump up her courage, the woman told me a story someone had told her when she was younger. The story, which comes from our Jewish tradition, is that a man was very sick, and he was worried whether or not he would survive. An angel appeared to him in a dream and took him to a place where there was a huge stone. The angel lifted up the stone and showed the sick man a large number of worms that miraculously managed to live out their life underneath the massive weight of this stone. "See," said the angel, "if God can take care of these insignificant worms underneath this large stone, He will take care of you." I tried to support the woman in her faith, and I reminded her that surgeons perform seemingly impossible feats these days.

The next day I came to visit my member again, and this same woman who had been a stranger to me the day before, bounced joyously over to my side. "Rabbi", she said, "good news! The surgeon did not find a tumor on my daughter's appendix. He found instead a **stone**. He has removed it, and my daughter is fine".

Now what is the miracle that took place here? Shall we say that the woman's faith in an ancient story from our Jewish heritage produced a modern miracle in its image, or shall we say that the miracle lay in this woman's ability to tap her heritage to find solace and comfort in her time of greatest need?

Our Jewish heritage is filled with insight and wisdom which could support us in our modern crises, and some of us are able to draw strength from them, but others of us see nothing in them.

The truth of the matter is that miracles are all about us, even under the heaviest stone. Life thrives in every barren corner of our universe. Trees grow out of stones in Colorado, and oases are to be found in the middle of the driest Asian desert.

The miracles are evidence of God's intent for our universe. The divine spirit inspires the mother bird to ravage all day for food for its young ones. Fish are enabled to lay a thousand eggs in order that ten might survive. The human child repeats in himself the whole miraculous process of learning and survival that has made civilization possible. The surviving concentration camp inmate slowly finds his way back to life.

The problems of human existence are abundant and complex, but let us not despair. There are always "the flaming chariots of God," the infinite realms of possibility, assuring us that those who are with us are more than those who are against us.

Search Committee Update

Dear Congregation:

I would like to take this opportunity to "update" you on the progress of your Search Committee.

When notification of Rabbi Baumgard's retirement date went out last spring, those rabbis interested in becoming the Associate Successor at Beth Am submitted their names to the Director of Placement. The basic requirements to become a senior rabbi at a temple our size is ten years in the rabbinate.

A panel of names was sent to us and we began a very thorough evaluation. By the time you read this, we will have interviewed nine men by telephone conference call and be well on our way to selecting those rabbis we will bring down to Miami for personal interviews - the next step in the process.

As Chairperson, I must compliment the Committee on their dedication. They truly represent you, and we all continue to be available for your input and advice. As a reminder, those on the Committee are: Dr. William Silver (Co-Chair), Jon Kislak, Dr. Martin Liebling, Nancy Persily, Bernard Goodman, Dr. Ted Wolff, Sam Steen, James Comander, Edie Spiegel, Gary Cohen and Michael Weisberg. The Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Barry Goldstein, and the President of the congregation, Evelyn Goodman, sit ex-officio.

Sincerely, Iris Franco

**TEACHING WITH TOYS
Sally Goldberg, Director**

Parent and child participate together in a program of songs, exercises, and play. Parents will learn how to teach their tots, while the children will play, learn, and enjoy together. The focus of the classes will be on developing self-awareness and exposure in a play way to colors, letters, numbers, shapes, and **reading**. Music, creativity, gross motor and fine motor activities, socializing, and learning to take care of oneself and one's things are all part of the program.

Ages: 3 months - to - 3 years
Registration: \$25.00 ... once a year only.
10 week session: \$45.00
Call for details: Tanya Rovin 233-6488
Sally Goldberg 251-6219

Starting January 14, 1986

..... Registration Form

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Class requested: _____

Tuesday

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. — 18 mos. - 2½ yrs.

10:20 - 11:20 a.m. — 12 mos. - 18 mos.

Make checks payable to: Temple Beth Am

Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, November 16

11:15 a.m.



Kit, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Cooper