



January 31, 1986
Volume 12, Issue 4

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, January 31, 1986, 8:15 p.m.

DR. HARRY ORLINSKY, Guest Speaker
Professor of Bible and Renowned Author

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE

Saturday, February 1st, 11:15 a.m.
Torah Portion: Yitro, Ex. 18:1-20:23

Beth Am Commentator

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

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

*Marvis Martin, Soprano
With Gary Ledet, Piano
"An Afternoon of Music"
Sunday, Feb. 16, 4 p.m.*



The Cultural Arts Committee of Temple Beth Am is proud to announce the third concert of our current season on Sunday afternoon, February 16th, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Soprano MARVIS MARTIN has been hailed by the international press for the beauty of her voice and her gift for sensitive communication with her audience. Equally at home in opera, on the recital stage, or appearing as soloist with orchestra, MARVIS MARTIN has sung recitals in nearly every major music center in North America, and there are only a very few major orchestras that have not invited the soprano to perform with them. Her reputation in opera continues to grow in stature and breadth, with significant appearances scheduled for both sides of the Atlantic in future seasons.

MARVIS MARTIN made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1982 as Pamina in THE MAGIC FLUTE and has sung every season since with the famed company. Last season, she sang the role of Clara in PORGY AND BESS, and she will be singing SUMMERTIME for us on February 16th. In the 1987/88 season, Miss Martin will be singing the part of Illia in Mozart's opera IDOMENEO with LUCIANO PAVAROTTI.

For many years, Marvis Martin was the lead soprano in the Temple Beth Am Choir under the direction of Selma Baumgard. We know many of her friends at Beth Am will want to welcome her when she returns on Feb. 16th.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors.

Past Presidents Honored at Israel Bonds Brunch Feb. 23rd

Carlos Dominguez and Jackie (Mrs. Alvin) Rose, Co-Chairs, announce that the Past Presidents of the Temple will be honored at a festive champagne brunch catered by Master Host Caterers on Sunday morning, February 23rd. This gala brunch will be co-sponsored by the Israel Bonds Office and Temple Beth Am.

Please mark the date on your calendars. A formal invitation will be sent to you by mail shortly. We recommend that you respond as quickly as possible so that you will not be left out of this prestigious event.

**Summer Camp Brochure in Mail
Save Money for Early Registration**



Dr. Harry Orlinsky to Speak From Pulpit Friday, Jan. 31st

Dr. Harry Orlinsky, world famous Bible scholar, will speak on "The Original Intent of the Bible-Decoding the Technical Language" following religious services on Friday, January 31st. One of Beth Am's most popular guest speakers, Dr. Orlinsky will discuss the translations of certain words and how these translations alter the meaning of scripture. His impressive credentials include the fact that he is Editor in Chief of the Jewish Publication Society, that he is past president of the Society of Biblical Literature, that he has been Prof. of Bible at the Hebrew Union college-Jewish Institute of Religion for many years, and that he is the author of "Understanding the Bible Through History & Archaeology", the basic textbook on the Bible.

**Registration Now Open
For Beth Am Pre-School and Day School
2½ Years thru 6th Grade
For fall of 1986
Call School Office: 665-6228**

Nominations Open for Temple Officers & Board

Al Leibert, Chairman of the Temple Nominating Committee, has issued a call for nominations to serve as an Officer of the Temple or to serve on the Board of Directors. Any Temple member willing to serve is eligible. Please submit nominations, in writing, to the Temple Office, attention Al Leibert.

The Nominating Committee will be meeting late in February. Please submit names of those who truly want to get involved in the planning and governance of the Temple.

Board Activities

The Temple Board meets monthly to supervise the activities of the professional staff. They act on the budgets for the Temple, the Religious School and the Day School. They make policy for the religious activities of the Temple, personnel practices, social action areas, and they plan for fund raising and the usual policy making decisions involved with the Temple operation.

Board Meetings Open to All

All members of the Temple are invited to attend any Board Meeting. Board Meetings usually are held on the third Tuesday of the month. The dates for the next two meetings are Feb. 18th and March 18th. Feel free to attend these meetings to see how your Temple Board operates.

Beth Am's Basketball Banquet

Sunday, Feb. 2, 1986



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Part Three of a Series

"The Greatest Ethical Teachers" AMOS

(References to chapters and verse are to the biblical Book of Amos. Follow the Bible as you read this article.)

"Amos and Andy" was the name of a famous radio comedy team decades ago before TV. Many of us remember that show with pleasure but some of us don't know that the namesake of the comedian Amos was the great Israelite prophet (about 760 BCE and later). We have seen in the case of the earlier miracle-working prophets, like Elijah, that the function of the prophet was "to defend the Constitution", i.e., to stand on the side of the ancient democratic law and defend the rights of the poor against those in power.

Amos, like the prophets who followed him, understood (a) that he was personally chosen by God for this purpose; (b) that God spoke to him directly and commanded him to take certain specific actions; (c) and that once proclaimed, the "word-command" of God became reality, i.e., it set in motion events that accomplished that which God desired.

We have seen that when Elijah condemned King Ahab's confiscation of the land of Naboth that the prophet had to flee for his life. Still the prophets fulfilled their dangerous mission. The courage of Amos is revealed when the high priest of the royal sanctuary at Beth-El commanded him to leave the country (to leave Israel the northern Kingdom and to go to Judah, the southern kingdom), Amos not only continued his proclamations against the government and the priests, but he further told the priest that calamity would befall his family because he opposed God's commands (Ch 7: 10-17).

Amos was a simple herdsman when he received God's call to act as His mediator. In highly poetic language, Amos tells us that all of Israel's neighbors will be punished for their injustices, but Israel will be punished the most (Ch 1: 3-2:3). Why would Israel be punished more than others, because God says, "You only have I known intimately", (3: 2). Amos tried to teach his people that chosenness meant added responsibility. Like the other great prophets, he admonished Israel, in God's name, to set an example for the other nations. The Israelites could not be like the other peoples. They had to be different, *kadosh*; they were set aside as God's people, and that was an awesome burden.

Amos attacks those who treat human beings as merchandise and sell those who cannot pay their debts into slavery (2:6). He attacks those religious leaders who defile their sanctuaries by separating ritualistic observance from ethical conduct (3: 14). The sample people who so studiously observe the worship rituals "cast righteousness to the ground" (Ch 4: 4, 5 and 5: 7). In the name of God, Amos calls for an end to burdensome taxes that impoverish previously free landowners (5: 11). He seeks balanced justice in the courts without favoritism to the rich (5: 15). In one of the great poetic proclamations, Amos quotes God as declaring to hypocritical worshippers, "I hate, I despise your religious convocations... Take away from Me the noise of your hymns... I will not accept your offerings... but let justice well up as the waters and righteousness as a mighty stream (5:21-24)!"

The message that Amos mediated to the affluent people of his society who did not seem to be disturbed by the suffering of the poor might well be directed to many of us today (see 6: 4 ff):

"Woe to you... who lie upon your beds of luxury...
And dine lavishly... Who entertain yourselves inventively
And drink bowlfuls of wine and adorn yourselves with
expensive perfumes

But are not concerned for the hurt of the people!"

Amos, like the classical prophets who followed him, was convinced that the longer that injustice was tolerated the more intense would be the violent reaction. This reaction, Amos, declared, would be directed by God Himself as the ally of the poor. It is from this period which

Prophets

Singing Groups GARAGE SALE, Sunday February 9th

The Beth Am Singing Groups will be holding a **GARAGE SALE** in February. No item is too big or too small... Start saving clothing, costume jewelry, toys, games, furniture, appliances, linen, china, art objects, handcrafted items, plants, etc. All contributions are tax deductible.

Now is the time to start sorting and collecting. You may call for information on pick-up and storage. Ronni Meltzer - 382-2373, Carol Pozen - 387-0184 or leave a message with the Temple Office - 667-6667.

Contemporaries Shabbat Dinner and Service Feb. 21

On Friday, February 21st, the Contemporaries will have a catered Shabbat Dinner at 6 p.m. prior to their annual Creative Service. Bernard Elrod announces that this will be a seven course dinner including challah and wine, and will be followed by delightful entertainment. The cost will be \$10 per person. Please mail reservations and checks made out to Temple Beth Am to: Mrs. Bess Gerzog, 333 Malaga Ave., Coral Gables 33134, or to Mrs. Rose Halasz, 9159 SW 77 Ave., #212, Miami 33156.

Marlene Price Teaches Evening P.E.T. Course Beginning February 4th

In response to many requests, Marlene Price, Assistant Principal of the Beth Am Day School, will teach a course in Parent Effectiveness Training on Tuesday evenings beginning February 4th for four weeks. The course will run from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., and the cost will be \$35.

P.E.T. is a system which provides both the methods and insights for dealing with a multitude of parent-child programs. It is a very successful program which develops friendship and respect between parents and children.

For further information and to register call Marlene at the school office, 665-6228.

Latest Art Show Smashing Success

The latest Art Show opening in the Beth Am Art Gallery was a resounding success. The evening was very well attended despite the inclement weather, and Audrey Komrad and Ann Reiter sold a very high percentage of the work they exhibited. We are proud to have the opportunity to exhibit these fine local artists, and you can see their work, including all of the ones which were sold, for the rest of the month. Make it a point to visit the gallery and give yourself a treat.

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, February 1

11:15 a.m.



Kenneth, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Druckerman



Graham, son of
Ms. Pauline Winick and
Mr. Bruce Winick

marks the height of the affluence of the ancient Israelite kingdoms that the decline of the kingdoms begins, but strangely it is also in this period that we have our greatest group of ethical teachers who have been a resource to the rest of the world for almost three thousand years.