

February 27, 1987
Volume 14, Issue 8

RELIGIOUS SERVICE Friday, February 27, 1987, 8:15 p.m.

"TRIBUTE TO SELMA BAUMGARD"

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE
Saturday, February 28, 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
Subscription Price \$2.50 yearly

— Tradition —

"Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Life Cycle Events"

Four Wonderful Wednesdays in March
at 8:00 p.m. in Room 101

Teachers: Rabbi, Leonard Schoolman,
Dorothy Herman, Principal Religious School

MARCH 4th

THE TRADITION OF BRIT AND NAMING

What is the Purpose of Jewish tradition? In what ways can tradition enrich our lives? Guest Teacher, Cantor William Lipson.

MARCH 11th

THE TRADITION OF EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN

Why are we called the "People of The Book?" Enjoy a learning Experience with our Religious School Staff; Barbara Bulbin, Raisa Edelman, David Halberg.

MARCH 18th

THE TRADITION OF DEATH, BURIAL AND MOURNING

What is the Jewish view of death? What traditions and ceremonies are followed at this time? Guest Teacher: Bill Saulson, Family Consultant, Riverside Funeral Home.

MARCH 25th

THE TRADITION OF MARRIAGE

What is the purpose of marriage? A Jewish marriage? How does a "Jewish" marriage strengthen Judaism's chance of survival? What are the traditions associated with the Jewish marriage ceremony? Teacher: Rabbi Leonard Schoolman.

We welcome you to this unique learning and socializing experience . . .

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Deadline for Camp Scholarship Funds March 3rd

Temple Beth Am is pleased every year to be able to make certain funds available to its members for the purpose of attending an approved UAHC camp.

Scholarships will be given primarily on the basis of financial and social need to benefit the largest number of children. Application forms should be submitted to the Temple Office no later than March 3rd. All information will be treated with the utmost of confidentiality. Applications are available from Cheryl in the Rabbi's office.

Selma Baumgard To Be Honored At Services February 27th



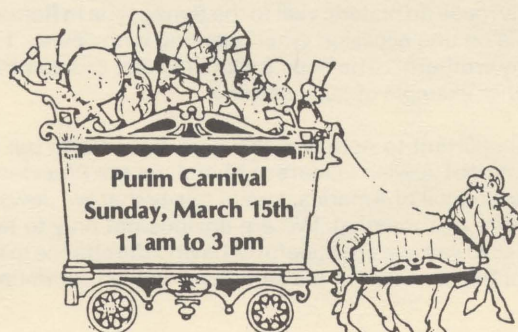
Selma Baumgard, Director of the Beth Am Adult Choir for thirty years, will be honored by Temple Beth Am, as part of our Sabbath Service on Friday evening, February 27th at 8:15 p.m.

As part of the service the Choir will present the debut of a new composition by Professor Bonia Shur of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. The composition was written especially for Selma Baumgard and is entitled, "When I Look Upon Your Heavens" or "Ki Er'eh Schamecha" (from Psalm eight).

Mrs. Baumgard became the Director of the Choir during the first year of its existence, 1956-57. She has successfully developed one of the finer synagogue choirs of America. About half of the members of the Choir are members of Beth Am and another half are culled from the professional singers of the area. Two past members of the Choir are among America's budding operatic stars, Marvis Martin and Curtis Rayam.

Selma learned her first synagogue music in an Orthodox setting. She can recall that members of her family would sit around the kitchen table and sing the finest traditional synagogue music. Selma studied piano for ten years and sang with the choir of Temple B'nai Israel, Elmont, N.Y. under Cantor David Conviser for six years. The repertoire of the Beth Am Choir reflects Selma's background. The Choir sings the best of both traditional and modern Jewish composers.

Some of the members of the Choir have been with Selma from the beginning. They include Ann Aibel, Sylvia Weinberg, and Bernice Anapol Sandler. Iris Rosen has been with the group almost as long. Lou Gillis, now of Los Angeles, was part of the original team for 25 years. Don Bennett, the current Cantorial Soloist, was trained in the Choir. The Temple Organist for fifteen years is Jim Bennett.



page

Adult Ed Courses Continue

Sisterhood Sponsors "The Five Scrolls" Starting February 25th

Temple Beth Am Sisterhood will sponsor a series of Wednesday morning Bible classes taught by Rabbi Schoolman on the theme, "THE FIVE SCROLLS." He will relate the books of Esther, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs to our lives today. These sessions will begin at 10 a.m. on four Wednesdays beginning on February 25th.



From the Rabbi's Study

(On Saturday morning, February 7th, a television crew from CBS-National filmed the Shabbat morning service of Beth Am. CBS is preparing a film to be aired on national TV during the visit of the Pope to Miami and other cities this coming September. Since I am currently President of the Synagogue Council of America, I was asked to make a statement about the response of the Jewish community to the Pope's visit. Following is the statement I made during the Service, part of which will be presented on TV).

The Torah portion this morning tells us about some of the plagues God worked upon the Egyptians. Try to imagine how these Hebrew slaves must have felt as they labored under their cruel taskmasters day after day. It would have been natural for them to lose all hope and faith. The Torah tells us about two different kinds of miracles that occurred under the leadership of Moses. First of all, there were "miracle" that we call "the plagues". Secondly, there was the miracle of faith and hope manifested by our ancestors.

Who had ever heard of a God who cared about slaves, who heard their cry, who knew their pain? Yet our ancestors believed in the possibility of such a God, and they responded to Moses' call to freedom. Some say that the great miracle at the splitting of the Red Sea was that the waters parted and our people were able to walk through on dry land. Others say that the great miracle was that our ancestors had the courage to walk into the sea knowing that they could very well be drowned.

In the end, to believe in the possibility of miracles is to believe in the possibility for change and improvement. This kind of faith is not only Jewish. It is also shared by our Christian friends who revere our Bible along with us. We Jews in Miami are anticipating an important event of sharing with the Miami Catholic community when the Pope visits our community in the near future.


Ever since the reign of Pope John who inspired the edict known as "Nostra Aetate", the Catholic Church has undertaken sweeping procedures to eliminate anti-semitism. Since that time the Church has actively sought to come close to the Jewish people, not for the purpose of conversion, but out of respect for a people and the church has publicly recognized to have a unique and continuing relationship with God. During the dark years leading to Naziism, Christians had taught that God had rejected the Jews and now related only to Christians. This doctrine of "rejection for the Jews" has been abandoned by the Catholic Church. The current Pope now speaks of the "mystery" that enables God to hold dear at one and same time the covenant with Christians and a separate covenant with the Jews.

Laymen may not comprehend at first the radical nature of these new assertions, but they have in fact opened up a whole new era of possible cooperation between Jews and Catholics. We know that Pope John Paul II has met with Jewish delegations in Rome, and he recently made an historic visit to the Synagogue in Rome. As the Pope has said on one occasion when meeting with Jews, "I am Joseph. I seek my brethren". The Pope's visit to Miami this coming September is another example of such seeking.

It is important to note that the Pope has sought out this meeting with national Jewish leaders in Miami. As the President of the Synagogue Council of America, I want to say that we Jews eagerly look forward to this meeting. We are anxious not only to hear what the Pope has to say, we are hopeful of having the chance to inform him of some of the concerns of the American Jewish community.


(Continued in column alongside)

**Remember
the Happy Days
at
Beth Am Summer Camp**




B'nai Mitzvah *February 28th*

9:15 a.m.




Donald, son of
Mrs. Sandra Goldberg
and Mrs. Charles Goldberg

11:15 a.m.



Nathalie, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Grubair



Ashley, daughter of
Dr. and Mrs. Ian Reiss

Some Jews have criticized the Pope for not authorizing the Vatican officially to recognize the State of Israel. I, too, would like to see the Church embrace the State of Israel in a more formal fashion, but we Jews would be seriously remiss if we did not acknowledge the substantial steps the Pope has taken towards the Jewish people during his term of office. The new spirit that reigns in the Catholic Church towards Jews is evidenced, I believe, in the willingness of the Archbishop of South Florida, the Very Rev. Edward McCarthy, to accept an invitation to speak in the pulpit of this Synagogue on an occasion just a few months away. Such a fraternity between Catholic and Jewish Clergymen would not have been possible before the policy enunciated by Pope John and known as "Nostra Aetate", a policy that the current Pope, John Paul II, has chosen to support and advance.

From the excitement I have observed about the Pope's impending visit to Miami, excitement manifested by Jews as well as by Christians, I can say that the Pope's seeking of his brethren is being accepted in the best spirit. I can only hope that his visit will set in motion an intensification of mutual seeking not only between Jews and Catholics but between representatives of all religious groups in America.