

Commentator

AFTER SCHOOL

JUST GOT SUPER-COOL

AT TEMPLE BETH AM DAY SCHOOL



**Introducing our Brand New
After School Program for Fall 2011**

See page 6 for details



TEMPLE BETH AM
Embracing Jewish Life

Av 5771

August 2011

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TEMPLE BETH AM

Save the Date

Monday, November 7, 2011



A Day of Golf, Tennis, Mah Jongg & Bridge
Deering Bay Yacht & Country Club



Sponsorship opportunities available.
Please contact Lisa Goldstein at 305.667.6667,
ext. 147 or email lgoldstein@tbam.org for details.

Event invitation to follow.



August Shabbat Services

Friday Evening August 5, 2011

6 Av
6:00 p.m. Shabbat Worship Service – Chapel
7:15 p.m. Shabbat Oneg

Saturday, August 6, 2011

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
Munchkin Minyan – Chapel
10:30 a.m. Morning Minyan – Chapel

Weekly Torah Portion – D'varim/ Shabbat Chazon
Deuteronomy 1:1 – 3:22
Haftarah – Isaiah 1:1 – 27

Monday, August 8

9 Av
Erev Tisha B'Av
7:00 p.m. Community Service - Sanctuary

Friday Evening August 12, 2011

13 Av
6:00 p.m. Shabbat Worship Service – Chapel
7:15 p.m. Shabbat Oneg

Saturday, August 13, 2011

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
Munchkin Minyan – Chapel
10:30 a.m. Morning Minyan – Chapel

Weekly Torah Portion – Vaetchanan/Shabbat Nachamu
Deuteronomy 3:23 – 7:11
Haftarah – Isaiah 40:1 – 26

Friday Evening August 19, 2011

20 Av
6:00 p.m. Shabbat Worship Service – Sanctuary
7:15 p.m. Shabbat Oneg

Saturday, August 20, 2011

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
Munchkin Minyan – Chapel
10:30 a.m. Morning Minyan – Chapel

Weekly Torah Portion – Eikev
Deuteronomy 7:12 – 11:25
Haftarah – Isaiah 49:14 – 51:3

Friday Evening August 26, 2011

27 Av
6:00 p.m. Shabbat Worship Service – Sanctuary
7:15 p.m. Shabbat Oneg

Saturday, August 27, 2011

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
Munchkin Minyan – Chapel
10:30 a.m. Morning Minyan – Chapel

Weekly Torah Portion – Re'eh
Deuteronomy 11:26 – 16:17
Haftarah – Isaiah 54:11 – 55:5

Share With Us...

Please inform our clergy office of any significant life cycle event such as births, engagements, weddings or deaths by calling the clergy office at 305.667.6667 ext. 131 or 140 or via email at clergy@tbam.org.



**Please Note:
Summer Office
hours
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
effective through
August 12.**

If your loved one is in **LONG TERM CARE** either at **The Palace, Miami Jewish Health Systems (formerly Douglas Gardens)** or at **home**, we would love to visit them. Please call the Clergy office and give your contact information to Mindy at ext. 131 or Aida at ext. 140.

Reb Tuvyah *Says*

RABBI TERRY A. BOOKMAN
REBBEAID@ATT.NET



A couple of months ago, I shared with you in an e-mail, my brother's letter to me regarding Israel. For many of us in the United States, our conversations about Israel center around our political concerns. We love Israel and want her to be safe, yet we do not always agree on the best path. Nevertheless, as a community we are united in our support.

However, there is so much more to Israel than its political situation that should also command our attention which, sadly, too often gets neglected. And so in this column, I share with you our son Micah's letter to us upon the completion of his maslul, the lengthy overnight march that tests these young men before they can receive their hard earned beret. I print it here with his permission that took some convincing, for, if you know Micah, clearly he did not write it thinking it would be shared with the entire community.

This issue of the Commentator is focused on our youth. Micah grew up in our congregation, attended Day School, went on to Gulliver Prep, played on their football team throughout Middle and High School, was a Bar Mitzvah at the Temple, a member of BAFTY, and a Confirmand in our Religious School. His close friends from those days are still his closest friends. His life growing up in Miami was, in large measure, no different from any other teen in our community. It was very "normal."

I share that with you because people often ask, "How can you allow him to do this? Aren't you worried?" Of course we have concern for his safety and well being. What parent wouldn't? But our philosophy of parenting is to encourage our children to follow their dreams. Micah has dreamed of serving Israel, taking up his part in defending the Jewish people since his earliest experiences living in the Land when he was only three years old and decided to stop speaking English. Certainly by the time he completed the Alexander Muss High School in Israel program he knew that he would return. Perhaps that is why he completed college in only three and a half years so that he could get back

quicker.

And so I say to you, the youth of our community who are reading this article (because your parents told you to do so) dream BIG and follow your dreams. Someone once said, "Life isn't about finding yourself; it is about creating yourself!" Create yourself to be the best that you can, and define success in ways that help you be you, and nothing else. "Live the life you've imagined" and don't let anyone convince you that you are not capable of doing just that.

P.S. Micah, already a paratrooper, was selected for the Special Force known as Duvduvan. At the beret ceremony, he received the beret of his commanding officer, a tradition which indicates the love and respect of his entire unit. We could not be prouder. But more importantly, he is proud of himself.

Dear Family and Friends,

I think it was somewhere around the 40th kilometer or the 10th hour of my latest march that things hit me. We had been walking since 7pm the night before and my body was starting to feel the effects. We had trekked through fields and forests, seen a lunar eclipse come and go, walked the path of the Burma Road and were on the verge of the final checkpoint. In another hour we would be opening up stretchers for the final 5 kilometer climb up towards Neve Samuel, a mountain outside of Jerusalem. The excitement of the moment was matched only by the pains in my legs and my desire to keep pushing until the end. This was my beret march, something I had been looking forward to for years and certainly since the beginning of training. This was the challenge that every combat soldier must conquer to earn his right of passage. What was going through my head at this

moment? What could I possibly have been thinking in the heat of it all? Simply, "I must be the luckiest guy in the world." As we continued up and up and up, muscles burning and backs aching, as everyone began to feel the weight of it all start to get to them, I started dancing. From my position at the front with my commander, I turned around and ran to every one of my teammates, gave them a pat on the back, a high five, told them "great job! keep it up!" and then danced my way back up hill to the front. I started singing one of my favorite songs and a huge smile burst across my face. I was reminded then, as I constantly know, that I am exactly where I was meant to be, doing exactly what I was

meant to be doing. I am fulfilling my dreams and my destiny, and it couldn't feel better.

Most people in my unit think I'm crazy. Most of my friends

“Thirty four young men my age lost their lives on Neve Samuel in 1948 so that I could stand there as a proud Israeli sixty three years later.” ”

already know that I am. "Why are you smiling?" and "How could you possibly be happy right now?" are frequent questions I get. Most of the time I just shrug and say "why do I need a reason?" I am constantly reminded of the fragility of life and the preciousness of every moment. The mountain top where my beret ceremony took place, with an absolutely gorgeous view of Jerusalem, came with an especially heavy price tag. Thirty four young men my age lost their lives in 1948 so that I could stand there as a proud Israeli 63 years later. While this may have been lost on the other kids in my unit, I did not pass up the opportunity to recognize the immense blessing that is my life. Every day that my eyes open up, whether it be at 3am for guard duty in the cold, 7am for running in the heat, or they never closed because I didn't go to sleep, I am thankful to be alive. Things are not all roses here. I struggle constantly and have had my share of failures. I am in an endless battle with loneliness and have found myself isolated at times. All this growing does come with its pains. But in the end, for all the times I've been asked why are you smiling?, I've never been at a loss for a reason. No matter how bad my body hurts or how low my spirit can get, there is always always always a reason to feel blessed.

I love you all and miss you all very much,

Micah

“I must be the luckiest guy in the world!” ”



View From The President

SUSAN HENKIN

THEHENKINS@AOL.COM

This spring I sat with pride and excitement as the Head of our Religious School congratulated a small but accomplished group of seniors who had completed the Temple Beth Am *Chai* School program. This incredible group was individually praised for their accomplishments in our Jewish and secular communities. They will all be attending impressive colleges and universities in the fall and statistically speaking there were a disproportionate number of Ivy League and top rated schools represented. Of course there are Gators—this is, after all, TBA. I was reminded that my father (z'l") when speaking about parental duty used to say to my mother that it was their responsibility to provide "roots and wings." All of our students who have grown up at our congregation and have participated in our schools, B'nai Mitzvah programs, youth groups, Confirmation classes, basketball leagues, and much more have developed the strong root system that will guide them throughout their lives.

Over the last two years our Religious School has undergone a process of reflection and renewal. This year, our Director of Youth Programs, **Josh Laurence**, has worked with the Director of Jewish Learning, **Joy Schandler**, to make some exciting enhancements to our Middle and High School programs. For more than 30 years our teens have met on Monday Nights to socialize and learn together. This year they will take a 24 hour leap forward to Tuesday, and meet at 6:30 for a communal dinner followed by professional and peer led programming. The revised program has 4 key components: Teen Tuesday, dinner followed by formal and informal learning, Youth Group, leadership opportunities and participation in mitzvah projects, local, and regional events, *Tyulim*, travel on exciting and educational trips, and *Shabbatonim*, day long and weekend retreats involving clergy and educators. Even if your child has taken a break from their religious education this is the year to come back and participate again. We are committed to making these programs available to everyone and have set aside scholarship monies to ensure that all of our students can participate.

The educators and members of our clergy team are committed to finding ways for ALL of our children to participate and engage at TBA. We look forward to your feedback and creative suggestions to ensure that your children get involved in our congregation and also receive 'credit' for those activities that they enjoy that contribute to their individual growth and development. According to a study conducted by CAJE, Dr. Sharon M. Ravitz writes, "...when parents value Jewish education and actively participate in the Jewish Community themselves, their children are more likely to value Jewish learning and continue their own Jewish education..." With your help we will achieve our goal of finding ways to make sure that all of our children remain engaged in Jewish life and develop strong roots that will continue to sustain them.

We will continue to connect with our college students this year through our college connections program. I hope you will register your sons and daughters to ensure that they receive their boxes of goodies and information about staying in touch with their Beth Am family and friends. I am deeply grateful to our lay leadership team, led by

Daniela Zanzuri and **Janet Nankin**, for their hard work on all of these exciting projects. Our Youth team is supported by a wonderful assistant in **Francine Francis**.

Temple Beth Am is celebrating two special milestones this year: 55 years (emerald anniversary) in our Religious School and 40 years (ruby anniversary) in our Day School. Our families have benefited over the years from a commitment to excellence by our clergy and professional team. Our current Day School lay leaders **Lori Friedman** and **Lauren Amron** continue a legacy of dedication. We are blessed today with educating the children of many of our schools graduates, and in doing so have connected our selves l'dor v'dor from generation to generation.

Temple Beth Am Day School continues to be a source of great pride for our congregation. This past spring we welcomed **Dr. Deborah Starr** as our new Head of School. Dr. Starr comes to us with more than 30 yrs. of experience in both secular and Judaic education. She has spent these last 5 months working with her Administrative team including **Susana Novak** and **Lyn Zuckerman** to put in place both a curriculum review and professional development plan. Her academic team will be enhanced by the addition of **Joy Schandler** as Judaic Studies Director; we know this partnership will also lead to a closer working relationship with our Religious School. Many of the enhanced curricular plans will already be in place beginning this school year.

Last month **Cari Altman** joined the Day School as Admissions Director. Ms. Altman grew up at Temple Beth Am, she and her husband **Michael** have two children; who will now have that same opportunity. Truly there is no one better suited to market our schools and engage our community. There will also be an exciting change to our after-school programming which our Day School will offer in partnership with **Courtney Young**, from Court's 1 on 1 Sports. A broad range of ASP programming for our youngest congregant families and our neighbors has been developed.

Hillary Clinton traveled all over the world only to find out what she could have learned right here in Miami at Temple Beth Am; it takes a village to raise a child. The Jewish people have practiced this model for several millennia and I am certain if we redouble our efforts we will find creative ways that speak to our 21st century children. It is our duty to provide the roots, a strong foundation, for our young people. We must commit ourselves to offering all of our children a way to actively engage in Jewish communal life. If we do this we will continue to be proud to watch them soar.

B'shalom,

Susan



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

ROBERT HERSH
RHERSH@TBAM.ORG

AFTER SCHOOL IS SUPER COOL!!

Our After School Program is going to enter a new era this August as we introduce a brand new experience for our kids to gain new skills, opportunities for leadership, and lasting relationships with peers and staff members. The time they spend with us will be tailored to them by offering daily activity choices while encompassing a "team" approach in which all the children feel a sense of belonging. All of this takes place in a structured and nurturing environment that revolves around learning and FUN. The kids will be provided with a healthy snack every day. Our program will have an offering for children age 2 by September 1 through the 5th grade. It will begin when Beth Am Day School ends and be available until 6 p.m. We feel this will enable our children to have an enriched afternoon of fun and learning and also give our parents that need it some additional time to have their kids cared for.

Pre-kindergarten through 5th graders will choose from Fitness activities such as nerf flag football, yoga, dance, basketball and soccer; as well as Arts and Science programming including Computers, Fun with Science, Music (Glee Club, music lessons), cooking and arts and crafts. Additionally children will have the opportunity to learn chess and other board games to challenge their minds. We will also have "Study Buddies," a comfortable place to study, complete homework and learn how to organize their assignments with the help of certified teachers! Younger participants will be grouped together, supervised by Temple Beth Am Day School early childhood teachers, in areas that will enable them to participate in developmentally appropriate experiences that are created on a play-based approach to learning.

This exciting new program will be directed by **Courtney Young**, who is well known among families who have participated in his Court's 1 on 1 Sports programs. Courtney possesses a Masters Degree in Physical Education and has extensive experience in coaching and teaching traditional values such as teamwork, leadership and problem solving. He will be working with our Day School team to create programming that is consistent with the values in our school. Staff will include many of our present Day School teachers including **Rita Blank** and **Cathy Gilewicz**. All staff will be vetted through our school leadership group. We will also have a medical professional on campus to provide for the safety and well being of the children.

What an exciting opportunity for our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends! Online registration is now available on our website www.tbam.org. If you have family or friends who are not members or students in our schools please let them know about this great opportunity for their kids!

What a FABULOUS way to start the new school year...

BACK TO SCHOOL IS SUPER COOL.

BOB

Temple Beth Am Day School

has a new After School Program
Beginning Fall 2011!

What we are offering:

- STUDY BUDDIES
- SPORTS TIME
- CHECK MATE
- DUNK & DRIBBLE
- KICK IT
- DOWN...SET...NERF
- YOGA KIDS
- SO, YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE?
- CYBER CLUB
- WACKY SCIENCE
- 3-2-1 BLAST OFF
- LIGHTS, CAMERA, SHOWTIME
- GLEE CLUB
- WHAT'S COOKIN'?
- YOUNG ARTISTS
- KIDOKINETICS®
- MINI-ASP
- JUST ASP



Courtney Young,
After School Program Director

Cari Altman,
Day School Admissions Director

Shari Debowsky, Logistics Director

Online registration only at
www.tbam.org

AFTER SCHOOL
JUST GOT SUPER-COOL

MEET CARI ALTMAN

OUR NEW DAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

Dear Temple Beth Am Community:

It is with great pleasure that we welcome **Cari Altman, M.S.Ed.** as our new Director of Admissions for Temple Beth Am Day School.

Ms. Altman began her position in July and will oversee the admission process for students and parents involved in Toddler Time, Early Childhood, and Elementary School.



Ms. Altman holds a Master's of Science in Education from the University of Miami with a background in family counseling. She has worked with families at South Miami Hospital's Addiction Treatment Center, as well as at the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service, formerly housed at The University of Miami. We believe that this skill set will allow her to communicate with our families and children about their needs in a positive and effective way—helping to ease the application/admission process for new families, and to be a trusted resource for our current Day School families and children.

The Pinecrest native has a lifelong personal and family history of Temple Beth Am membership, with deep roots in the South Florida Jewish community. We feel confident that her enthusiasm and commitment to our Temple, as well as Judaic studies, will be reflected in her presentation of the school to future Day School families. Ms. Altman is a product of our Religious School and Hebrew School and is also a current Day School parent, with a daughter in the Early Childhood program and a son who will soon be old enough to attend our school as well. Her connection to the school, as well the surrounding community, will allow her to foster relationships not only with potential and current Day School families and alumni, but also with admissions professionals at other schools; particularly those middle schools to which our students aim to gain admission.

Ms. Altman's success in other realms such as marketing, sales, recruitment, and event coordination will contribute to continued improvements in our school. She will use these skills to help to promote and represent Temple Beth Am Day School in the community as a recruiter of new students, and an ambassador of information about the superior academic standards of our school. We anticipate that this will generate an increase in Day School inquiries and enrollment; and will allow our Admissions Committee to maintain high admission standards. She will also identify areas of dissatisfaction, and act to create steady improvements in those areas.

Ms. Altman's enthusiasm for what we do is contagious. Her qualifications and warm, outgoing nature will foster an "open-door" policy where Day School families will feel comfortable communicating their needs and concerns, while feeling confident that they can work together to create a resolution.

We look forward to the positive ideas and energy she will bring to our school. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Altman to our team.

Very truly yours,

Robert Hersh, Executive Director and
Dr. Deborah Starr, Head of Day School

Mazel Tov To...

Lisa and David Gelfman and big sister, **Sloane**, on the birth of **Jace Erik Gelfman**
Rachel and Barry Lapides on the birth of **Julia Rose Lapides**
David and Alejandra Stern and big brother, **Ari**, on the birth of **Maya Stern**
Joy Goldstein on the birth of great granddaughter, **Silvie Ruth Mackler**
Leslie and Steven Saiontz on the engagement of their daughter, **Amanda** to **Daniel Gluck** of Nashville, TN
Michele and Scott Baena and **Raquel** and **Boris Gabay** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Ava Gabay**
Rachel and Ryan Bailine and big sister, **Sasha** on the birth of **William Sykes Bailine**
Estelle and Ira Segal on the ordination of their grandson, **Rabbi Ari Kaiman** who will be rabbi at Congregation B'nai Amoona in St. Louis, MO
Lori and Sam Dubbin on the engagement of their son, **Robert** to **Cailin Goldberg-Meehan** and Mazel Tov to grandparents **Dr. Howard** and **Shirley Rosen**
 Beth Am congregants who have graduated from The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School: **Judy Gilbert-Gould**, **Patricia Gurkin**, **Shelley Payne**, **Alan Stein**, **Samuel Steiner** and **Daniela Zanzuri**



RITA DIAZ
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
RDIAZ@TBAM.ORG

MEMBERSHIP



...And We Did!

What a wonderful evening...we learned, we danced, we ate and we drank, we caught up with old friends...and we made new ones! **Kendall Dance Studio's Professional Formation Team** was incredible. It was wonderful watching them perform, and learning some great dance moves...The Social Hall was exquisite - thank you to **Blooming Events** for the beautiful orchid center pieces, to **Always Flowers** for "lighting" up the room, to **Fare to Remember** for the fabulous dinner enjoyed by all. A special thank you to our committee, **Colleen** and **Richard Fain**, **Nancy** and **Bob Hersh**, **Lily** and **David Serviansky**, **Diane Krieger** and **Bruce Kohrman** and **Pam** and **Howard Wolofsky**. Over 80 people attended...and we're planning a second evening of Ballroom Dancing. Watch for the Save the Date...If you're interested in joining this committee, we would appreciate your participation so please call Rita Diaz at 305.667.6667 ext. 107.



M MEMBERSHIP

PARTY EXPO & BRIDAL SHOW

What an incredible day! I hope you had a chance to stop by to see the extraordinary displays, taste some delicious food and take home some goodies. As in previous years, a lot of work went into the production of our party guide book. *Todah Rabah* to our superb custodial staff for the fast, efficient setup of the ballroom. To all of our vendors and advertisers for their support...and to all who attended, we hope you were able to make the right connections for your celebration. If you would like a free copy of our Party Guide Book, please stop by our administrative offices.



PICNIC
& PRAY

Rosh haShanah
"Picnic and Pray"
Wednesday, September 28
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

This innovative, informal, interactive Erev Rosh haShanah gathering begins at 5:30 p.m. in the gymnasium area of our *Hessel Family Youth Complex*. Bring a picnic blanket, food, drink, friends and family and join us for musical entertainment led by **Susan Linder** followed by a short, yet meaningful service led by **Rabbi Rachel Greengrass** and **Cantor Rachelle Nelson**.

This service is free and open to members and non-members.
Advance online registration for this service is encouraged at www.tbam.org.



FAMILIES

WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

RABBI RACHEL GREENGRASS
JEWISH LIFE COORDINATOR
RGREENGRASS@TBAM.ORG

To Snip or not to Snip

That is the question; at least it is in San Francisco where enough signatures have been gathered to put a referendum on the November ballot that would make San Francisco the first major city in the U.S. to outlaw circumcision.

If it passes, Jewish parents in San Francisco who hold a traditional bris, or circumcision ritual, could be sentenced to a year in jail. Of course, they could just leave the city for the procedure and then return. But when done as a religious ceremony, circumcision is usually done in the house or the synagogue. Where would they go now? What if it spreads? I remember learning of people circumcising their babies while in hiding and in the concentration camps – is this what we are returning to?

As a rabbi, I have heard all of the reasons people do not wish to circumcise their sons. Many believe it is barbaric, that it will lessen their sons sexual pleasure, that their child will resent their making this decision for them, that they fear something will go wrong... I have also heard other kinds of complaints – the mother did not want to be seen yet, that it was too much of a hassle, that the *mohel* was too expensive for such a short amount of work. (Rabbis hear everything.)

I remember the night before Henry was circumcised. I was a mess – I had counseled so many people before this day and here I was, a crying overprotective mother worrying that Henry would now associate us with pain and our relationship would be irreparably scarred. John joked that I could always become a minister. Intellectually I knew it was a healthy decision, I had read all of the reports of circumcision helping to prevent against infections and STDs, most notable the spread of HIV. I intellectually knew that this was Torah law. But, at that point in time, it was not comforting.

What comforted me was knowing that our son would be circumcised on the 8th day of life, the day that clotting factors are at its peak and that he would heal even faster than the babies who had the procedure done at the hospital. What comforted me was knowing that circumcision has been part of the

heritage of the Jewish people since the time of Abraham and that Henry would be a link in the chain of that tradition, that God would be looking out for him. What comforted me was knowing I wouldn't have to answer any locker-room questions of why he didn't look like the other boys, his camp friends, or like his father. What comforted me was knowing that he would know, that even in the first week of life, when it's so hard, (when I was tired beyond belief, still in pain from labor, still uncomfortable in my body, in shock by how much my life had just changed) that even then I knew he would always be part of our family, that we would always love him and want to share what we hold most dear with him, that we would try to give him the best we knew how – and this meant bringing him into the covenant of our people.

The idea of the cut was scary – but not doing it would have been beyond terrifying.

So we had a beautiful ceremony where Henry was welcomed as part of the Jewish people and he did great. I don't regret it for a second. But in San Francisco, our Jewish brothers and sisters are in danger of losing the rite to fulfill our covenantal promise to God. One of the referendum's key supporters, Matthew Hess, has written a comic book, *Foreskin Man*, that portrays a blond, Aryan-looking superhero doing battle with "Monster Mohel." If you go to the website, you will see the bearded, prayer-shawl-wearing mohel as he leers manically at a crying baby, scissors in hand, while his goons hold the crying mother's hands behind her back. And then I realize that perhaps this has less to do with protecting foreskin than it does promoting hatred. And I am again, sure in my choice to secure Henry's place amongst the Jewish people who look at it as our mission to "love our neighbors as ourselves, to be a light unto the nations, and to make choices for our children when they are young that will teach them how to live lives of righteousness, justice, and loving kindness.

CALENDAR	AUGUST	
	6	Munchkin Minyan
13	Munchkin Minyan	
14	Grapeland Water Park - Golani	
20	Munchkin Minyan	
27	Munchkin Minyan	



YOUTH

ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

JOSH LAURENCE
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH PROGRAMS
JLAURENCE@TBAM.ORG

“Slumber not in the tents of your fathers. The world is advancing. Advance with it.” -Giuseppe Mazzini

For over a century Jewish education in North America has proceeded along two parallel tracks: instruction in schools and socialization through contexts such as settlement houses, summer camps, and Israel experiences (Sarna, 2006). While it is vital that Jewish education continues to operate through these different contexts, it may no longer be wise to divide those contexts into two parallel tracks (Zeldin, 2006).

As the field has matured, Jewish educators adopted the terms formal and informal education to describe these tracks. In this new century, it is time to question the simplistic distinction. Schools no longer limit their educational work to formal instruction...(Bryfman, Reimer, 2008).

As we move forward in our Religious School and Youth Activities Department at Beth Am it is time not only to embrace these contexts, but blur the lines as we seek to fuse formal and informal education within the framework of experiential education opportunities. We will continue to reinforce and strengthen Jewish identity development through innovative experiential learning opportunities in all of our youth programs.

This is evident in the creation of our new 6th grade Fusion in Religious School. The youth department will work closely with the Religious School to provide engaging experiential education programming complimented by social experiences. Additionally, our new 7th – 12th grade learning program, the YAD Experience will spearhead and embody a balance of these learning opportunities; from our weekly Teen Tuesday meetings that include classroom-based and community-based learning, to *shabbatonim* (retreats), travel opportunities, and youth group events in addition to a multitude of leadership opportunities, tikkun olam and mitzvah projects.

If you have not done so already, I invite you to register your child for what promises to be an amazing year filled with incredible opportunities. Online registration is available at www.tbam.org.

YAD Experience:

The 7th – 12th Grade Learning Program

The YAD Experience is our brand new learning program for 7th – 12th grade and will combine the best of experiential education with the informal education enjoyed through many experiences in our Youth Programs. Monday night *CHAI* School will now be Teen Tuesday, an evening for all teens to enjoy together, with additional key elements being *Tiyulim* (Trips), *Shabbatonim* (Retreats), and our youth groups, B4BAFTY and BAFTY.

The YAD Experience program guide and registration is now online: Go to the “schools” tab at www.tbam.org and register today.

Register

your 4th & 5th
Graders now for
Club 45.

Go online at
www.tbam.org
Youth activities.

**Is your child in College or Grad School?
Give them a membership in our College Connection
They'll receive holiday packages, the Commentator
and more. Sign up at www.tbam.org
Youth Activities-College Outreach**

**For more information about our youth groups and the
YAD Experience contact Josh Laurence, Director of
Youth Programs at 305.667.6667 ext. 145 or email
jlaurence@tbam.org.**



PROGRAMMING

RABBI JUDITH KEMPLER
OUTREACH RABBI
JKEMPLER@TBAM.ORG

New Year, New Beginnings!

Temple Beth Am is excited to announce that our current Program Director, **Shari Debowsky** will be moving into a new position as the campus Logistics Director. She will oversee Operations, Communications and On Campus Community Wide Enrichment (which includes our Beth Am Basketball program, Beth Am Bridge and our new Beth Am After School Program). **Rabbi**



Judith Kempler will assume new responsibilities within the Program Department. Rabbi Kempler is excited to work alongside the Program Department's own **Michelle Cohen** as well as the lay leadership of **Edith Einspruch**, Vice President of Programming and **Debra Frank**, Program Chairperson.

If you are interested in getting involved, either on an individual program or working with the program team, please contact Rabbi Kempler at 305.667.6667 ext. 108 or jkempler@tbam.org.

When you see Shari and Rabbi Kempler on campus be sure to congratulate them in their new roles as Temple Beth Am continues to ensure that we are an institution that meets the spiritual, educational, social and cultural needs of its members.

PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Professional Connections is a networking group that is open to members of Temple Beth Am and the community at large.

Wednesday, August 3 • 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Chapel, Lewis Family Religious Life Complex

Luncheon Agenda

- 12:00 p.m.** - Optional Open Networking
- 12:30 p.m.** - Chairman Announcements, Blessing and Catered Lunch
- 1:00 p.m.** - Professional Development
- 1:30 p.m.** - Optional Open Networking

Bring your business cards and enter our drawing for a prize.
Cost: \$10 per person in advance.
\$15 per person on the same day at the door.
Includes lunch.

RSVP is a must/Limited space/pre-register by calling Michelle Cohen at 305.667.6667 ext. 149 or online at www.tbam.org.

Adam Hellman, Chairman



Community-wide Tisha B'Av service Monday, August 8 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Temple Beth Am will host this year's community Tisha B'Av service on Monday evening, August 8 at 7p.m. here at Temple Beth Am under the direction of our **Cantor, Rachelle Nelson**.

Temple Beth Am will be joined by colleagues and congregants from Temple Judea, Temple Hatikva, Congregation Bet Breira Samu-El Or Olom, Temple Israel of Greater Miami, Temple Emanu-El and Temple Beth Sholom on Miami Beach.

This service, created by Cantor Nelson, will contain original writings and music inspired by the holiday. Join us for an evening of reflection and prayer.

PROGRAMMING



Pop Up Shabbat on Brickell

Friday, August 5 and Friday, September 9
8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

The Plaza, 951 Brickell Avenue, 10th floor (pool deck)

Join us for a relaxed evening of music, drinks and snacks as we welcome in Shabbat.
Bring your favorite bottle of wine to share.

Third Thursdays Happy Hour

Thursday, September 15, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Segafredo, Brickell Avenue

Thirsty after work? Ready for the weekend?
Drinks, food and conversation provided!

After the Brisket: A Late Service and Nosh
Wednesday, September 28, 8:30 p.m.

Auditorium, Frank and Jodi Hessel Youth Complex
(a younger, later, free-er, high holy day experience).
Appetinis and dessert provided throughout the evening.
All are welcome.

www.facebook.com/pages/Miami-Jews-22-39

RSVP to jkempler@tbam.org to reserve a seat!

Waiting for Superman on Thursday, September 1



How can America save its education system?

This is the question that lies at the heart of this screening of the film *Waiting for Superman*.

The film is motivated by alarming signs that children are falling behind in basic skills even as spending has increased. Academy Award @-winning director Guggenheim (*An Inconvenient Truth*) lends a human face to the problem by following five children trying to navigate their way through the public school system. He deepens our understanding by interviewing key stakeholders and reformers in education.

Just as *An Inconvenient Truth* gave new urgency to climate change, *Waiting for Superman* will leave you fired-up and ready to improve education no matter where you live.

Location: Temple Beth Am,
Auditorium *Hessel Family Youth Complex*

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Space is limited.

RSVP at www.tbam.org to secure your seat!

This event is co-sponsored with the Day School.

Adult B'nai Torah Information Meeting Wednesday, August 31 - Meeting Room 2



Did you "miss" becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah when you were 13?
Did your Bar or Bat Mitzvah experience not include reading from the Torah?
Would you like a refresher?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then perhaps our Adult B'nai Torah (aka Adult B'nai Mitzvah) class is for you!

If you are not sure, come to an introductory meeting on Wednesday, August 31 at 7:00 p.m. or contact Mindy Robbin at ext. 131 or mrobbin@tbam.org.

This class will be taught by Rabbi Bookman on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. beginning October 26 and culminating with a service on Shabbat, May 19, 2012.

This class is limited to 12 students!



RELIGIOUS

SCHOOL NEWS

JOY SCHANDLER, RJE
DIRECTOR OF JEWISH LEARNING
JSCHANDLER@TBAM.ORG

Emerald Anniversary

Temple Beth Am Religious School is celebrating its 55th Emerald Anniversary this year. Watch for emerald events throughout the year. Our first event: the opening day breakfast on Sunday, August 28 at which time all students, parents, guests and teachers will be receiving their official emerald *kippot*, to be worn proudly throughout the year.

August Calendar

August 28

Emerald Anniversary Breakfast
and First Day of Religious School
Madrichim Orientation

August 31

First Wednesday Session for Third - Sixth Grades
Parents' Hebrew Orientation
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

September 4

No School – Labor Day Weekend

September 7

Parents' Hebrew Orientation 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

September 11

First K-2 Students' and Parents' Prayer Experience
Parents' Hebrew Orientation 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.



CALLING ALL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ALUMNI

During our 55th Emerald year, we will be honoring our Religious School Alumni.

We want to hear from you. Watch for our

facebook group, fill out the alumni information on line or call us. We look forward to hearing from you and celebrating with you.

Parents Want to Know

Why do we teach Hebrew? What are the goals of the curriculum? What is my child supposed to know at the end of each school year? How does the Hebrew program connect to Bar/Bat mitzvah? Why does my child need to spend four years learning Hebrew before Bar/Bat mitzvah? What happens if I don't know Hebrew? How can I encourage my child to develop good Hebrew skills if I do not know how to read Hebrew?

If you have ever asked or wondered about any of these questions, please attend one of the two Hebrew orientations for parents: August 31 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. or September 7 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. September 7 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. or September 11 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Register Now

If your children are not yet registered for Religious School, please do so NOW. Registration received after August 22 may result in children's names not appearing on the first day's roster.

Please call or email Anita if you have any questions about the programs or the registration process at 305.667.6667 ext. 119 or amarks@tbam.org.

The Temple Beth Am Religious School Board

Chairperson:

Jodi Mazer (305) 662-2578

VP of Religious School and Youth:

Daniela Zanzuri Beiner

Alyssa Weiss Allen

Debbie Bortnik

Dawn Eustace

Myriam Grad

Lisse Kravetz

Mona Marcus

Janet Nankin

Brett Panter

Denise Press

Amy Saphier

Martha Snyder

Deborah Sperber

Daniel Weinbach

Julie Zimmitt



DAY SCHOOL

NEWS

DR. DEBORAH R. STARR

HEAD OF DAY SCHOOL

DSTARR@TBAM.ORG

"Whoever has a generous eye, a humble spirit and a simple soul is a disciple of Abraham our forefather." (Pirke Avot 5:19)

Continuing with my theme on looking at what really counts in education, many private schools, particularly Jewish day schools, emphasize character education. A recent article in Kappan, the magazine of Phi Delta Kappa International ("Character as the Aim of Education," by David Light Shields, May 2011) actually states that character should be the aim of education.

My further reading, in The Head's Letter, (Educational Directions Incorporated, Volume 39, No.9 – June 2011) actually broke character down into four important types and stated that we should learn to "use knowledge in effective and ethical ways" throughout life (p. 2). I was intrigued by this idea and share it here with you.

Intellectual Character: This quality speaks to a student's way of thinking versus his/her ability to memorize facts. It is similar to the educational concept of teaching critical thinking skills (such as application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation). But, this takes it one step further. Although it includes being "curious, open-minded, reflective, strategic, and skeptical," it promotes the idea of "truth-seeking." I could not help but make the comparison to the middah we teach: "Justice, justice shall thee pursue." (Deuteronomy 16:20)

Moral Character: This quality is defined as doing what is good and right. "In situations of choice and conflict, the person of moral character gives priority to moral over non-moral considerations." The Talmud is full of moral dilemmas and gives us guidance as to how to choose what is good and right, even when difficult. Even our new emphasis on social competency education teaches our students to be "upstanders" (the opposite of bystanders) in difficult situations.

Civic Character: This quality is defined as having a desire to work toward the common good of a community. It is absolutely the Jewish notion of Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) and Tzedakah (Righteous Giving); both diligently taught at Temple Beth Am Day School. Our students understand their responsibility to others and the environment. They take responsibility and participate in food drives, shoe drives, hurricane relief, gardening, recycling, diabetes research and so much more. Patriot John Adams addressed this issue of civic character and recognized that it was imperative to sustaining a nation. "Knowledge of democratic principles is part of developing civic character, as is an emphasis on carrying out civic duties." As we move forward with our curriculum renewal process there will be an added component, in the social studies curriculum, on citizenship (which emphasizes the ideals, principles and practices of living in a democracy).

Performance Character: This quality is defined as the essence of a person's innate traits, which include "perseverance, diligence, courage, resilience, optimism, initiative, attention to detail, and loyalty." Our new 3-year cycle of teaching middot to our students, led by Rabbi Greengrass, addresses many of these (and others listed above) – and, the new emphasis on social competency skills completes the instruction. These will be kicked-off at each Rosh Chodesh (new month) Havdallah gathering. They will then be integrated throughout the curriculum.

My conclusion, a Jewish day school, when it embraces what Judaism has to teach us: pursuing justice, making peace, environmentalism, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, welcoming guests, respect for every person, love your neighbor, repair the world, forgiveness, gratefulness, watching one's words, acts of loving kindness, keeping one's word, not bearing false witness, being kind to animals, etc. just naturally teaches "character education." For us, it is called *middot* (Jewish values). Aren't our children fortunate?

DAY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Chair: Lauren Amron

Vice Chair: Mindy Leathe

Treasurer: Michele Lipson

Secretary: Laurie Stein

Parliamentarian: Roberta Gold

PATIO Co-Presidents: Jackie Siegel & Pam Shapiro

Temple V.P. for Day School:

Lori Friedman

Members:

Alan Brown

Hagit Fefferman

Todd Feinberg

Jennifer Glasser

Scott Kandell

Joely Kaufman

Judith Lederhandler

Debbie Love

Alex Moskovitz

Susan Shapiro

Richard Siegel

Danny van der Reis

School and Temple Professionals:

Dr. Deborah R. Starr, *Head of School*

Lyn Zuckerman, *Early Childhood Director*

Cari Altman, *Admissions Director*

Susana Novak, *Elementary School Coordinator*

Robert Hersh, *Executive Director*

Rabbi Terry Bookman

Rabbi Rachel Greengrass, *Jewish Life Coordinator*

AFTER SCHOOL

IS SUPER-COOL

see page 6 for details



LIBRARY

OF BOOKS, READING & RECOMMENDATIONS

ETTA GOLD
LIBRARIAN
EGOLD@TBAM.ORG

Laurie Naturman
LIBRARY ASSISTANT



A Lively Library!

Our library was host to myriad programs this past year. We've had some marvelous author visits and Educational programs

Wonderful movies
Classroom visits
Musical performances
The BABBA contest
Reading groups
Mother Daughter Book Clubs
Celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday

And we look forward to another busy year, with something for everyone - Come check us out!



Sisterhood of Temple Beth Am

Sisterhood Board

President

Nanci Hellinger

Membership VP

Joanne Bauling-
Ciminero

Programming VP

Ellen Genet

Communications VP

Susan Golinsky

Critical Issues VP

Rita Swickow
Cindy Lerner
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Treasurer

Vivian Feinberg

Recording Secretary

Sarah Davidoff

Temple Liaison

Janet Nankin

Planning VP

Teri Golden

Parliamentarian

Sherilyn Adler

Past President

Lynn Cromer

Advisory Board

Gayle Jacobs
Abbe Kerr
Missy Salzman

Sisterhood Opening Event...

Entertaining with a Flare

Presentations by Fare to Remember



WOW your guests, make your parties **POP**
Creative entertaining ideas that will
turn you into the **ULTIMATE** hostess

Thursday, September 8, 2011
7 p.m.

Temple Beth Am Social Hall
Lewis Family Religious Life Complex

Dinner and drinks will be served

Complimentary for 2011/2012 Sisterhood Members
\$18 for guests

RSVP a must to Michelle Cohen, 305.667.6667 ext. 149
or online at www.tbam.org



Save the Date!

Knitting Hatathon

Tues., September 20, 2011, 10 am - 3 pm

In the home of Evelyn Politzer

Drop by to get started or stay all day!





TEMPLE BETH AM Committee of 100

CIRCLE OF LIFE

Richard & Colleen Fain
The Fairholme Foundation
Jon & Tina Kislak
Richard & Janet Yulman

CIRCLE OF BLESSING

Mark & Nedra Oren

RABBIS' HONOR CIRCLE

Marc & Ilene Eichberg
Richard & Susan Lampen
David & Lily Serviansky

PRESIDENT'S HONOR CIRCLE

Les & Beth Adler
Scott & Michelle Baena
Ron & Charlene Esserman
Adam & Cheryl Goldstein
* Larry & Susan Kahn
Barbara Levin
Gabriel & Evelyn Politzer
Richard & Jackie Siegel
Brad & Lauren Sokol

COMMITTEE OF 100

* Anonymous
Evelyn Axler
Neil & Jill Berman
Jordan & Judith Bittel
Edward & Iliana Blumberg
Jim & Gale Bramnick
Gary & Barbara Davis
Harold & Nanci Deutsch
Kenneth & Adrian Dubow
Michael Duchowny
Michael &Carolynn Friedman
Jorge Gomez & Ann Kaufman
Ken Gorin
Phyllis Grossman
Mark & Helen Hauser
Richard Hersch
Dave & Hedy Hirsch
* Harry & Amy Hollub
Chuck & Roberta Jacoby
Joe & Shelley Jacoby
John Janette & Joely Kaufman
* Bernita King
Jay & Lisa Massirman
* Jason & Jodi Mazer
Clifford & Diana Mermell
Spencer & Maria Morgan

Jeffrey & Susan Nullman
Harry & Lisa Payton
Rich & Amy Pollack
Miguel & Lezlie Poyastro
David & Sheila Quint
Terry & Marcia Reisman
Kenny & Fran Rosen
Richard & Cessy Rubinson
Scott & Michelle Sarason
Robert Segal & Janice Sherman
Jay & Susan Shapiro
William & Jean Soman
Michael & Betty Wohl
Jack & Hope Ziffer

* new to this level of giving
** this list reflects renewals as of
June 15, 2011

Your leadership and support are
greatly appreciated.
Please consider stepping up to
one of our Committee of 100
levels for the new year.

NEED RECIPROCITY FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS?

Will you be having guests worship with
you here or will you be attending
services somewhere else?

Please contact Mindy Robbin at ext. 131
or
mrobbin@tbam.org
for reciprocity requests.



Temple Beth Am "Yad Squad"

Todah Rabah to the following congregants who enhance our High Holy Days and weekly Shabbat Minyan service with their beautiful voices and souls:

Irene Beibe Hadassah Blum Lisa Boas Judith Davidoff Paul Distenfeld Tracy Ellyn Robyn Fisher Felton Forbes Stephanie Gilbert Susan Golinsky Lisa Green Susan Henkin Fran Hertz Richard Hoffman Bruce Kohrman Lori Malagon Donald McClaskey	Mindi Notrika Karen Pincus Sheila Quint Michelle Sarason Eilat Schmalbach Ed Schwartz Hannah Standiford Kimberly Standiford Monica Warman Karen Willner Pamela Wolofsky
--	---

If you would like to become a member of this "club," please contact the clergy office to join! 305.667.6667 ext. 140.

August Events

Looking for the calendar? We have removed the printed calendar from the Commentator and encourage you to visit our website calendar at www.tbam.org. This online version is always current and provides details for each event.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*Morris & Mikki Futernick
 *Albert & Myrna George, Daniel and Kevin Ari Kempler
 Debra Lieberman & Brent Pocker and West Gilda Liebowitz
 Kevin & Stacey Packman and Brett Todd & Elizabeth Ruderman
 and Jacob, Hannah and Eden Belle
 *Ron & Sherry Simon and Danielle

* returning members to Temple Beth Am

** This list reflects membership through June 20, 2011

ברוך ה' ומה ארבה

The Current of Life

We Mourn the Passing of:

Irene Kish, aunt of **Adrian Dubow**
 Anne Rubinson, mother of **Dr. Richard Rubinson**
 Jerome Nagelbush, uncle of **Judyth Hirsch** and great uncle of **David Hirsch**
 Miriam (Mimi) Mandel, grandmother of **Jaime Williams**
 Bettye Slaminsky, mother of **Brenda Kilmer**
 Doris Strassberg, sister of **Dr. Richard Gellman**
 Dr. Eduardo Blum, former husband of **Atilia (Hadassah) Blum**
 Shirleen Agress, aunt of **Howard Perlman**
 Charles Schmidt, father of **Edward Schmidt**
 Greg Langner, nephew of **Dana Zarr**
 Elliot Sharp, brother of **Byron Sharp**
 Dr. Peter Cassileth, husband of **Dr. Judith Ratzan** and stepfather of **Stuart Ratzan**

Ner Tamid Nishmat Adam

Eternal light
 is the soul of man



Temple Beth Am's Trip to Argentina

Led by Rabbi Arturo Kalfus

Next informational meeting
 will be held in August - check online calendar
 Adult Reading Room

Join Rabbi Kalfus and your fellow temple members for a fabulous "once in a lifetime" trip to the highlights of Argentina.

Among the locations that you will tour are Buenos Aires, Bariloche – the "Switzerland of Latin America" and Calafate where you will stand on moving glaciers. You will learn the history of Argentina and its Jewish community. Visit remarkable locations that will move your heart.

Enjoy a memorable Shabbat service and interact with local Jews. Visit the "mothers of Plaza de Mayo" as they continue to fight for human rights. Visit an "estancia" where you will be treated to what real GAUCHOS do.

Eat incredible meals!!!

Tour art galleries, listen to the music and enjoy breathtaking views!!!

Trip dates: November 28 – December 9, 2011 includes many meals, r/t from Miami and all internal flights, hotels and motor coach with English guide. Use of frequent flier miles is permitted. Upgrades and extensions allowed.

Please RSUP to Aida Littfauer, clergy assistant at 305.667.6667 ext. 140 or alittfauer@tbam.org.



We hope everyone is enjoying their summer. In just a few days, we will all begin a new school year. During July, all of our Day School families should have received a welcome packet from PATIO which included many items including information on volunteering to become a room parent, uniforms, challah ordering, school lunches, Birthday Book Club, PATIO's many volunteer opportunities, important 2011-2012 dates and Spring Art Auction sponsorship information. Please read the packet carefully and return the order forms as soon as possible.

During orientation and the first three days of school, uniforms will be on sale in the foyer of the RAMBAM center. Please see our new red anniversary shirt, which students are required to wear on Mondays.

We hope all of the early childhood parents will join us at the following welcome coffees as they send their little ones off to school for the very first time:

August 23 and 24
9 a.m. in the Extended Social Hall

We would also like to extend a special welcome to our new Day School families. PATIO is looking forward to everyone's involvement this year. Please support PATIO by volunteering for at least one event during the year. Lastly, we are pleased to present our PATIO Officer and Committee Chairs for 2011-2012.

PATIO OFFICERS 2011-2012

Co-Presidents:	Pam Shapiro and Jackie Siegel
Early Childhood Vice Presidents:	Jennifer Levin and Lindsay Jagolinzer
Vice President/Development:	Debbie Love
Treasurer:	Hagit Fefferman
Secretary:	Dina Weinstein
Parliamentarian:	Lisa Mendelson
Committee Chairs:	
Art Appreciation:	Hope Kaiser and Jane Gold
Birthday Book Club:	Yael Muller and Maguy Esquenazi
Book Fair:	Lisa Mendelson, Lisa Hyder, Leslie Steinberg and Andrea Potash
Box Tops:	Katya Illina
Challah:	
Honey Bears:	Shirley Atlas and Jennifer Levin
Library:	Dina Weinstein
Parent Education Programs:	Elizabeth Leight
Preschool Memory Book:	
School Store:	Lauren Sturges and Laurie Stein
Speech and Hearing:	Laurie Stein
Teacher Appreciation:	Shirley Atlas
Tikkun Olam:	Lisa Kaplan
Uniforms:	Ann Kaufman and Daniella Ives

We look forward to a successful year and to seeing you on campus.

Pam Shapiro and Jackie Siegel
PATIO Co-Presidents

High Holy Days 5772

SERVICES SCHEDULE

<i>Rosh haShanah</i>			
Wednesday	September 28	5:30 p.m.	Erev Rosh haShanah — Picnic and Pray Gymnasium, Hessel Family Youth Complex
		8:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh haShanah Service
		8:30 p.m.	Erev Rosh haShanah "After the Brisket: Late Service & Nosh" Auditorium, Hessel Family Youth Complex
Thursday	September 29	8:15 a.m.	Early Service*
		8:15 a.m.	Kids K'hilah Auditorium, Hessel Family Youth Complex
		11:30 a.m.	Late Service*
		11:30 a.m.	Rosh haShanah en Español Auditorium, Hessel Family Youth Complex
		3:00 p.m.	Children's Service Auditorium, Hessel Family Youth Complex
Friday	September 30	4:30 p.m.	Tashlich Service, Dante Fascell Park
		9:30 a.m.	Rosh haShanah Service — Second Day, Includes study session and Kiddush brunch
<hr/>			
Sunday	October 2	10:30 a.m.	Your Clergy will join you as you visit the graves of your loved ones at area cemeteries: Mt. Nebo Kendall, Old Mt. Nebo and Lakeside
<hr/>			
<i>Yom Kippur</i>			
Friday	October 7	6:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre Abbreviated Service*
		8:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre Service
Saturday	October 8	8:15 a.m.	Early Service*
		8:15 a.m.	Kids K'hilah Auditorium, Hessel Family Youth Complex
		11:30 a.m.	Late Service and Brief Yizkor Service*
		2:45 p.m.	Yom Kippur Study Adult Reading Room, RAMBAM Center
		2:45 p.m.	Healing Circle Service, Chapel
		3:00 p.m.	Children's Service Auditorium, Hessel Family Youth Complex
		3:00 p.m.	Musical Meditation
4:30 p.m.	Mincha Service		
5:45 p.m.	Yizkor/Neilah Service Break-the-Fast to follow (light fare)		

* Childcare for children ages 2-5 is available during those services marked accordingly
All services will be held in the Sanctuary unless otherwise noted

Temple Beth Am Golani Brotherhood hosts a trip to Grapeland Water Park

Sunday, August 14 • 10:00 a.m.

**Guys, grab your kids and
let's have some fun!**

**Grapeland Park
1550 NW 37 Avenue
Miami, FL 33125**

**Cost: 14 and older \$9.00
2-13 \$5.00/ 1 and under free**

**For more info and to register
Go to: www.tbam.org
Calendar, August 14**



Where in the World is the Commentator?

This is your opportunity to travel with your Beth Am family. Please...take a copy of our *Commentator* with you on vacation and have your picture taken holding our wonderful monthly magazine. Please email the photo to rdiaz@tbam.org. and we will either print it and/or post it on our dynamic website www.tbam.org.

Happy and safe travels!

Love,

Rita



Gayle and Steven Handshu in Yosemite, May 2011.

Beth Am Bridge

Bridge Lessons
Mondays - \$10
Thursdays (Supervised play) from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Tuesdays - Advanced Beginner - \$10
Wednesdays - Intermediate - \$10
from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.



Duplicate Bridge 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday in the Extended Social Hall - \$8
Friday 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Beginner Bridge lessons, Fall 2011 - call for more information.

For more information please call the Bridge Information Line at 305.667.6667, ext. 203



Rabbi Kalfus and Temple Beth Am campers and staff at Camp Coleman 2011.



Tikkun Olam

Repairing the World
תיקון עולם

FEED YOUR SOUL - A SOCIAL ACTION COMMITMENT TO FOOD AND OUR EARTH

The Tikkun Olam Committee will gather all entities of our congregation under one social action theme for the coming year...FEED YOUR SOUL! What could be closer to the Jewish heart and soul than food - an integral part of most all our celebrations! And in today's world issues of food and our environment go hand-in-hand. Hunger, obesity, farm-to-table, organic gardening, nutrition, global warming, hydroponic farming in Israel are just a few issues that touch our lives. In late June, the Tikkun Olam committee gathered representatives from all entities of Beth Am to begin developing the temple-wide FEED YOUR SOUL program including a Feed Your Soul Project Day on November 13. The Day School, PATIO, Religious School, BAFTY, Sisterhood, Golani Brotherhood were all represented and part of the planning. With this theme the Tikkun Olam committee chose the direction of the committee's projects for the coming year and the direction of Temple Beth Am's repairing the world efforts as a congregation. Any new projects initiated by or brought to the committee will fit under the Feed Your Soul umbrella. Tikkun Olam on-going projects will be evaluated with the theme in mind as one of the criteria for continuing current projects. To join the Tikkun Olam committee or for any questions/comments, contact **Teri Golden** at terigolden@gmail.com.

B'NAI MITZVAH CANDIDATES BEGIN REPAIRING THE WORLD

With a commitment to social action - repairing the world - being one of the three major tenets of Judaism, B'nai Mitzvah candidates often chose a Tikkun Olam project as part of their preparation. The Tikkun Olam committee is available for guidance in choosing a project.

Starting with September's issue of the *Commentator*, the Tikkun Olam page will include an article describing the projects chosen by TBA's younger members. If you have a B'nai Mitzvah candidate in your home, let us know what project you have chosen.

Contact our Tikkun Olam B'nai Mitzvah liaison, **Monica Warman**, at monicawarman@bellsouth.net for assistance in choosing a project or with information for the *Commentator*.

CHAIR

Teri Golden

CLERGY

Rabbi Arturo Kalfus

BOARD MEMBER

Adrienne Messing

COMMITTEE

Debbie Benitez
Harvey Bodansky
Mark Dachs
David Davis
Gary Eisenberg
Kara Fisher
Elizabeth Frank
Lisa Heller Green
Chuck Hibnick
Lisa Kaplan
Susan Lampen
Yelitza Leon
Susan Rosenthal
Shelley Payne
Monica Warman



SPOTLIGHT ON...

RON KOHN, CAMILLUS HOUSE BOARD MEMBER

Camillus House is celebrating its 51st year in Miami and commercial real estate developer TBAm's **Ron Kohn** has been an active board member since 2000. "Personally, this has been a rewarding experience as the Brothers of the Good Shepherd continue to make Miami a better and more hopeful community," says Ron. Run by the Brothers, a monastic order within the Catholic Church, Camillus House is on the front line in Miami serving the needs of the homeless community by providing meals, health and dental care as well as mental health counseling, job training and housing. Many other services are provided along the way including a Post Office and a warehouse for clothing to name a few. Currently, Ron is on the Executive Committee overseeing the Program Committee with responsibility for real estate and programming inside the buildings. "We are currently building our new emergency shelter. It will begin serving our clients next month when Shepherd's Court opens 80 units of housing. The balance of the facility will open in stages over the course of the next 2 years. We are also building 90 units at Labre House. You can see the construction from I-95 just west of downtown," explains Ron. For more information about Camillus House contact Ron at ronald@kohncommercial.com



Beth Am member Ron Kohn (4th from the left) helps break ground on Camillus House's Labre construction.



OUR JEWISH HERITAGE

BY DR. LENORE C. KIPPER, RJE, JUDAIC STUDIES DIRECTOR, EMERITA

Middot, Virtues and Values are an integral part of our tradition**What are Middot?**

Jewish Virtues, *Middot*, are really the values that represent the essential principles of Jewish living. They reflect how we behave, what we stand for, how we respond to others, how we view life and the world around us. They are our personal qualities and attributes that determine our choices. In striving to achieve some of these virtues, we define and prioritize what really matters the most in our daily lives. *Middot* are derived from our collection of traditional texts. Although they were written to address the Jewish people, they have become universal ideals.

What are the origins of Middot?

We begin to learn about the importance of Jewish virtues from biblical interactions, through Rabbinic times and folk literature to contemporary writings. The first Rabbinic listing of Jewish virtues is found in Pirke Avot, 6:5-6:6. It lists 48 virtues. Another source, *The Way of the Righteous*, appeared in 1581. Since then, there have been many collections written about the virtues that are core to Jewish living. The recent contemporary book, *Jewish Moral Virtues*, by Eugene Borowitz, was published in 1999.

It is based on the writings of a late thirteenth century Roman Jew who was a scribe, Yechiel ben Yekutiel. The collection was called *Sefer Maalot HaMiddot*, The book of choicest virtues. He created a new form in Jewish literature. No one before him wrote about the specific virtues that Judaism esteems. I will select from some of these traditional texts essential principles, moral virtues, that have guided our understanding and have established enduring relevant middot for our time.

Why Strive to Practice Middot?

When we choose to act in virtuous ways, we will see increased goodwill between people in our community. Practicing *middot* can lead to increased emotional, interpersonal and spiritual fulfillment. It gives us an opportunity to enrich and help improve the lives of others. A fundamental assumption in our tradition is that each person has a divine essence, created in God's image, *b'tzelem elohim*. The challenge for us is to walk in God's ways.

What is Musar?

The term *musar* is also identified with moral principles, virtuous attributes and ethical behavior between people. Between 1840 and 1900, the *musar* movement grew in Lithuania *yeshivot*. Its founder was Rabbi Israel Salanter. *Musar* teachers sought to emphasize ethical behavior to study moral texts, daily selfreflection, in order to subdue vanity and overcome

preoccupation with worldly matters. It also was established to balance the study of Jewish law and ritual preoccupation. On one level, *musar* represents the personal characteristics that lead to becoming a *mensch*, a person who does the right thing because it is the right thing to do.

In Pirke Avot we read: "In a place where no one behaves like a human being, a *mensch*, you must strive to become a *mensch*."

A *mensch* is a person who is humble, reliable, honest, dependable, unselfish, kind, and sensitive to the feelings of others. A *mensch* is a person who thinks and acts in ways that make the world more just with respect, *kavod*, appropriate behavior toward all people, *derech erez*, and performs acts of loving kindness, *g'mee-loot chasadim*.

On another level, *musar* represents the communal responsibilities and obligations we have to each other and the welfare of the community. Each person has the responsibility for repairing the world, through *tikkun olam*, individual and collective religious action, emphasizing righteous giving, *tzedakah*, social justice and the pursuit of peace.

The biblical text teaches us that Moses spoke to the entire community of Israel saying, "You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy," (Lev. 19:1). What does it mean to be holy? The Jewish view of holiness is rooted in action. It demands that every human being perform good deeds and behave virtuously toward others based on the ethical and moral teachings of our heritage.

In every age we are confronted with moral and ethical dilemmas, personally and communally. Everyday we are hearing and reading about immoral behaviors in government, in organizations, in business. How do we respond to these conflicts? Jewish texts give us guidelines. We can become a community that reflects high moral standards in our personal and professional lives and who advocate for moral virtues and values in our relationships between people. This is the path that leads us to creating a *K'hillah K'doshah*, a community that answers the call, "You shall be holy..."

This year I will share with you some of the *middot* from Jewish sources that are still relevant for us today.

B'Shalom,

Lenore

Congratulations!

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**Perpetual Yahrzeits on our memorial tables, along with others whose Yahrzeit commemoration is requested, will be read before the Kaddish prayer. The above Yahrzeits will be observed during the month of August.*

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We give thanks for the thoughtfulness of those who support the temple by remembering and/or honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. To receive a donation envelope or for questions, please call the temple at 305.667.6667.

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Suzzi and Marty Glaser and families in appreciation of your support and friendship during difficult times
Bobbie and Dennis Longo and Myra and Michael Matters in appreciation of the beautiful marriage ceremony of our daughter Erin and Matthew Dresnick

Robert Sondak in memory of Sylvia Sondak

Jamie and Jon Rubenstein in honor of Samantha's Bat Mitzvah
Danielle and Marc Spiegelman in honor of your 20th anniversary
The Sarason family in appreciation of a beautiful Confirmation service

Scott and Elizabeth Wasserman with deep appreciation for Nathan's Bar Mitzvah service

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B'nai Mitzvah classes from 2008-2011, in appreciation of Cantor Segal

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Dorothy and Asher Marks in honor of David Kates' 90th birthday
Ann and Ed Rubinoff in honor of Marlene Kohn's Bat Mitzvah
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Colleen Fain and Lily Serviansky in honor of Rita Diaz on the occasion of her birthday

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Rita Swichkow and family in loving memory of Bob Widom

Suzanne Zientz in with thanks to of Bill Sussman for his wonderful hospital visits during my illness

Marjorie Zuckerman

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Betty McClaskey in memory of Bettye Slaminsky, beloved mother of Brenda Kilmer

Marlene and Michael Olin in honor of our daughter, Rachel, wishing her a Happy Birthday

Susan and Bob Price in memory of Bettye Slaminsky, loving mother of Brenda Kilmer

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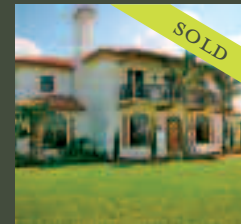
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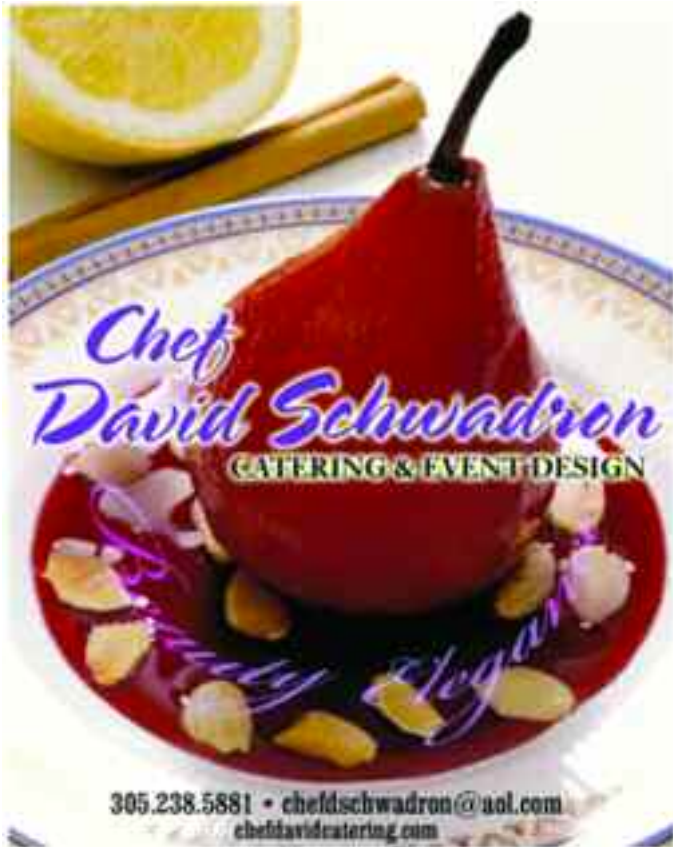
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