



VILLAGE OF PINECREST
Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A portion of Kendall Drive to be named after the founding Rabbi of Temple Beth Am

Pinecrest, Fla. – The Village Council has co-designated a portion of Kendall Drive, adjacent to Temple Beth Am, as Rabbi Herbert Baumgard Road. A dedication ceremony will be held Friday, October 21st at 9:00 a.m. at Temple Beth Am in the 6000 block of Kendall Drive.

Under Rabbi Emeritus Herbert Baumgard's leadership, Temple Beth Am (formerly South Dade Jewish Center) grew from a small synagogue of 55 families in 1955 to a 14.5 acre campus boasting a strong and dynamic membership of 1,700 Jewish and interfaith families. It is now recognized as one of the largest and most well-respected Reform congregations in the southeast United States. Rabbi Baumgard served his faith community for more than 30 years before his passing on April 15, 2016.

His service as a Chaplin's assistant during WW II convinced him of his calling to become a Rabbi. After studying at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Rabbi Baumgard was ordained in 1950 and went on to become one of the leading experts on Jewish prophets. He was widely regarded as one of the leading interpreters of Liberal Judaism.

Rabbi Baumgard's legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of the Temple Beth Am community and he is remembered with respect and admiration.

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