



FAMILY SERVICE, Friday, December 5, 1980, 7:30 p.m.  
 RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD — Candlelight Ceremony  
 "WHAT THE MENORAH SAID TO THE CHRISTMAS TREE"

SINGLES SERVICE, Friday, December 5th, 9:30 p.m.  
 In Chapel of Teenage Building

TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, December 6th, 11:15 a.m.

# Beth Am Commentator

December 5, 1980

Miami, Florida

## Discussion by Temple Presidents December 14 'Outlook for Reform Judaism in the Year 2000'

The next Brotherhood Breakfast Forum will be a panel discussion on the 'OUTLOOK FOR REFORM JUDAISM IN THE THIRD MILLENIUM - THE YEAR 2000' on Sunday, December 14 at 9:30 A.M. in the Youth Lounge. The participants in this discussion will be the presidents of some of our local Reform Temples.

Dr. Bill Silver, President, Temple Beth Am  
 Dr. Larry Stein, President, Temple Bet Breira  
 Aaron Podhurst, President, Temple Sinai  
 Moderator - Rabbi Lewis Bogage, S.E. Area Director, UAHC

While the growth of Reform Judaism has been steady, that growth has been an uphill battle. It has been said that 'it has always been difficult to be a Jew.' It has even been more difficult to be a Reform Jew in some parts of the world. What do we see as the outlook for Judaistic Reform by the year 2000 - which is less than twenty years away. Our most informed panel will tackle this question, with your help, on Dec. 14. Please be there.

Admission to this Brotherhood Breakfast Forum is \$2.00 for Brotherhood members and \$2.50 for non-members. Ladies are always welcome. Don't forget to bring your friends and neighbors.

## LOOKING AHEAD WITH SANDI SIMON



We are pleased to announce that Sandi Simon has been appointed to a two year term on the Union of American Hebrew Congregation's Long Range Planning Committee. The appointment was made by Rabbi Lewis Bogage, Director of the Southeast Federation of the UAHC. Sandi will be attending her first Long Range Planning Committee meeting on December 6 in White Plains, New York.

The Adult Choir Presents  
 A FESTIVAL OF CHANUKAH MUSIC  
 Friday, December 12, 8:30 p.m.

## Children's Candlelight Service Friday, December 5, at 7:30 P.M.

The annual children's Beth Am candlelight service in honor of Chanukah will be held on Friday night, December 5, at 7:30. Those attending are asked to bring a candle (protected by aluminum foil) which will be lit as part of the service.

The Religious School choir will sing Chanukah songs and Rabbi Baumgard will conduct his famous candlelight service.

### CHANUKAH BEGINS TUESDAY EVE, DEC. 2

Light the first candle on Tuesday evening, December 2 and one additional candle each night for eight nights.

### OBSERVANCE OF CHANUKAH

There are five ways in which Chanukah is observed in the home. First, lighting of candles. Second, gifts. Many Jewish families give the children a gift on each night of Chanukah, after the candles are lit. Third, food. Chanukah has its own favorite foods, such as potato latkes and nuts. Fourth, songs. There are many extremely beautiful Chanukah songs which should be sung after the candle lighting. Fifth, stories and games. The game, Dreidle (spin the top), is an essential feature of the Chanukah observance.

### SHAMASH IS THE LEADER

Light the first candle with the shamash, or attendant, candle. The shamash may be permitted to burn or be put out. The second night, light two candles with the shamash, etc. The first two of the blessings are said on all nights. The third is said only on the first night. Sing the songs after the lighting each night. Have fun as a family.

For the Easy Way Shop at our Temple Judaica Shop  
 Mondays and Wednesdays 3:45 til 5:45  
 Fridays following Sabbath Services  
 Support "Made in Israel" Products!



Two Week Tour  
 To Israel  
 For Beth Amites  
 June 1981

Departure: June 16 or 17  
 Itinerary: 10 days Israel  
 4 to 5 days Egypt

Approximate cost \$2,000, including air fare.  
 Complete details by December 15





FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

### "WHY JUDAISM?"

An Excerpt From a High Holiday Sermon  
(Part II)

In the Koran, the most common phrase for God is "Al Rachman, the Merciful God." The very phrase — "El Harachaman, the Merciful God," occurs not only in our Bible but repeatedly in our Talmudic literature which precedes the Koran. The New Testament authors tell us that when Jesus was asked, "Which are the main commandments?", he answered, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might; and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." You will recognize that the first of these commandments is from the fifth book of our Torah, and the second one is from the third book of our Torah. Christians have carried these teachings to every corner of the world for centuries. In this sense, Jews owe Christians a great deal, but has the time come for the people through whom God worked to give the world these great teachings to say, "We have done the spadework; let us sit back in reflected glory and let others do our work for us?"

Mohammed, it is well known, was illiterate. The Judaism that he presents in the Koran as the basis for his own religion is the Judaism he learned in the market place, not from the scribes and the learned Jews, but from Jewish merchants. The Koran is filled with Jewish folklore as if this were basic Judaism. Mohammed did a great service for the Arab peoples. They were lost in paganism and superstition, and he mediated to them some of the popular teachings of the folk Judaism of that day. He tried nobly to raise his people to the monotheism of the Jews. Still, one does not find in the Koran the majesty of the Hebrew Prophets. Neither the literature nor the call to ethical action is comparable.† The very name for the religion, Islam, implies submission. Islam is a call to the passive acceptance of what God grants us. Islam provides a pattern for spiritual piety. Judaism is the source of that pattern, but there is much more in Judaism than the call to piety; there is also the demand for social and democratic reform. Judaism is a call to an active partnership with God (L'taken et ha-olam) to change those inequities in the world which mar God's creation and which deviate from God's plan for mankind.

The Prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah addressed a highly cultured and urbanized citizenry and sought to inspire them to revolt against selfish leaders and inbred institutions. Mohammed addressed an illiterate and peasant people and sought to elevate them from their primitive and self-destructive paganism. The learned Jews of the time of Mohammed could easily tell the difference between his message and that of the Hebrew Prophets.†† Consequently, they could not accept him as the next in the line of God's Prophets. For this refusal, Mohammed, who truly admired "The People of the Book," as he called the Jews, later turned upon them and called them "infidels."

Iran's Islamic leader of modern times, Khomeini, is no less anti-Jewish. He has openly condemned the Jews for rejecting God's Prophet, Mohammed.

Jesus, on the other hand, never seems to have asked his fellow Jews to surrender their faith. Indeed, in the New Testament Jesus seems to urge them to have pride in their faith and to propagate it more intensely. "Why," he is purported to have asked his co-religionist, "Why do you hide your light under a bushel?"

(To Be Continued)

† See the introduction to "The Koran," translated by E.H. Palmer, Oxford University Press, London.

†† In time, Arabs became more cultured, of course. Their philosophy, especially was on a high level.

Copies of Rabbi Baumgard's sermon are available in the Temple Office.

OPEN SISTERHOOD BOARD MEETING Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.  
"OUR BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS." So Join the Group!  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Call Selma (271-1712)

# Youth News

## 8th GRADE NEWS

Future ICE SKATING CHAMPIONS are in the 8th Grade Youth Group! We just came back from a fun filled afternoon at Polar Palace!

Lots more fun is scheduled: A Shabbaton with Temple Israel of West Palm Beach.

A big dance with another Temple's Youth Group and more, much more! Come join and experience the 8th Grade Youth Group!

### Student Council News From the Day School

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the 1980-81 Student Council Campaign. The speeches and posters were excellent. A special thanks to Mrs. Weinfeld who helped us so much in organizing such a well-run campaign and election. The new officers for 1980-81 are as follows:

Treasurer, Adam Brand; Secretary, Alison Deutch; Vice President, Bonnie Brooks; President, Lisa Pearl.

Student Council's first project for this year will be a Tzedakah project. We are collecting all types of canned goods for distribution to the elderly. This is a very worthy cause; and we will appreciate your help.

### ENRICHMENT FOR LIVING

Surviving In The 80's - Parenting The Young - Parenting Redesigning the "2nd" Half - Enriching For All

Sponsored by Miami Dade Community College  
South Campus

December 6, 1980, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION CALL 596-1161

### "Ideas Through Books" Meeting Notice

BOOK: "ST. URBAIN'S HORSEMAN" and "JOSHUA THEN AND NOW", both by Mordecai Richler. The former is out a while and available in paperback; the latter is a new book.

REVIEWER: SHEILA GOLDEN. (She did "The Arab Mind" for the morning group last year.)

DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1980, 9:30 a.m. or 8:00 p.m. (Combines November and December meetings)

PLACE: MORNING: Home of Mickey Cohen  
7980 S.W. 154 Terrace  
RSVP: 235-3697

EVENING: Home of  
Selma and Leonard Rappaport  
8470 S.W. 103 St.  
RSVP: 271-1712, or Temple

### REPORT ANTI-SEMITIC ACTS

If you observe a blatant anti-semitic event call either of the following numbers and report it in detail!

A) Anti-Defamation League 373-6306

B) American Jewish Committee 576-4240

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, December 6  
11:15 a.m.



Rouven, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gans



Adam, son of  
Mr. Norman Scheinin