

Our 30th Year

December 27, 1985
Volume 11, Issue 45

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, December 27, 1985, 8:15 p.m.
Rabbi James L. Simon
"MAZON - A MOST POWERFUL IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS FINALLY COME"

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE
Saturday, December 28th, 11:15 a.m.

FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE, Friday, January 3, 1986, 7:30 p.m.
Rabbi James L. Simon
"HOW TO BEGIN THE NEW YEAR RIGHT"

CONGREGATIONAL TORAH SERVICE
Saturday, January 4th, 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

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

• Telephone: 667-6667
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This Commentator combines the issues of
December 27th & January 3rd
The next issue will be that of January 10, 1986

Wednesday, December 25th and Wednesday, January 1st are
Legal Holidays - the Temple Office will be closed

Birthday Blessings at Family Service January 3rd

Parents are urged to call in the names of their children to the Temple Office if they celebrate their birthdays during the month of January. Bring your children to the Family Service on Friday night, January 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. for their special blessing.

New After School Program To Begin January 6, 1986

New classes will begin in Spanish, arts and crafts, sports, cooking and many more exciting enrichment areas. The After School Program is available for children in pre-school through 7th grade. This program is for Temple members and non-members. Transportation may be arranged from nearby schools.

The program is designed to accommodate both the working parent, who might need after school care, or the parent who wishes their child to have enriching afternoon experiences, under the guidance and supervision of a well trained staff.

Check your mail for the new After School brochure. Deadline for class registration is Friday, January 3, 1986.

Any questions call Nancy Weinfeld, 667-6667 between 1:00 and 6:00 P.M.

Learn and Lunch with Rabbi Simon

"Jewish Perspectives on Women and the Family"

Rabbi Simon is offering a new and exciting three-part course sponsored by Temple Beth Am Sisterhood and tailor made for "the woman of the 80's."

Since this topic is of vital concern to all of us, Rabbi Simon will treat each of the three classes as individual self-contained seminars so that you may enter on any one of the three dates offered. Reservations a must.

Tuesdays: January 7, 14, 21 - 11:00 a.m. - Suchman Hall

\$5.00 per session - \$12.00 for the series.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED - Raffle Prizes

Registration for: "JEWISH PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN AND FAMILY"

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Please register me for January 7 _____ 14 _____ 21 _____ The Series _____

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed. Mail to Temple.

Adult Education Winter Courses

Rabbi Jimmy Simon will teach a course in medical ethics as part of our Adult Ed Winter Series, according to Gil Roston, Chairman of the Beth Am Adult Ed Committee. The course will be entitled, "Who Shall Live And Who Shall Die?"

The first session of the course will be on Tuesday evening, January 21st at 8 p.m. in Room 101. The course will be for two hours each night and will continue for four Tuesdays.

Mr. Roston announces that the course for Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah will continue during the Winter session, taught by Lenore Kipper and Rabbi Simon.

The course for prospective converts and for Temple members also known as "Introduction To Judaism", will begin again on January 8th (Wednesday, in Room 101) and continues for 14 sessions. This is an outstanding course.

A series featuring representatives of Hasidic, Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Judaism will also be presented beginning Tuesday, February 18th. It is hoped that different Rabbis from these movements will be the instructors, and details will be announced shortly. The course will be titled, "Varieties of Jewish Experience".

Dr. Harry Orlinsky, renowned Bible scholar, will make his annual presentation to the congregation the last Friday in January.

Israeli Dancing classes will also continue in the coming semester on Wednesday eves. 8 - 9:30 p.m.

**The Officers, Board of Directors and Staff
wish you**

A Healthy and Happy New Year

"How to Keep Jews From Disappearing" Discussion at Brotherhood Breakfast Forum, Sunday, January 19th

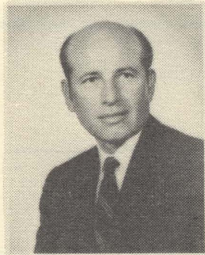
Max I. Dimont, in his scholarly and very readable book, "Jews in America" (available in the Temple Library); wrote a forecast that the forces of assimilation, lowered birth rate and increased inter-marriage, amongst other elements, will reduce the six million Jewish population in America to 4½ million by the year 2,000; a disappearance of 1½ million of the Jewish population.

The evaporation of that many Jews will be the topic of discussion when a distinguished panel of temple officials will speak on, "HOW DO WE KEEP THE DISAPPEARING JEWS FROM DISAPPEARING?" on Sunday morning, January 19th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Temple youth Lounge. The panel will consist of:

Phillip Goldin, Exec. Director of Temple Israel, Miami
Dr. Art Shapiro, Pres. Congregation Beth Israel, Miami Beach
Michael Exelbert, Pres. Temple Zion, Miami
Barton Udell, Former President of Temple Beth Am moderator
George Malin, Former President of Temple Beth Am will deliver the Invocation.

Admission to this all-you-can-eat Brotherhood Breakfast Forum will be \$3 for Brotherhood members and \$3.50 for all non-members. Everyone is invited. Bring your friends and your questions.

Holidays



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Christmas Time -
A Jewish Viewpoint

I still remember that when I was about ten or eleven years old, I would drive my bike down the street at Christmas time and feel very good about all the lights in the windows. When I was still younger, I would thoroughly enjoy going through the department store toy shops at this season. I didn't ask my mother to buy me any of the toys. I knew that we were too poor for that, but I did enjoy the magic of the environment. Christmas time was make believe time to me, as a young boy, as it was to many youngsters then and now.

We did not observe Christmas in my home, but I didn't feel excluded from the mellowness of Christmas time. Christmas belonged to the environment outside my home in a town in which there were few Jews. I benefited, along with others, from the good will generated during this season. We Jews should not be afraid to appreciate these positive aspects of the Christmas season. How good it is that the majority of the people amongst whom we live turn on the friendliness during this season! As Jews, we can identify with that spirit very easily. Did not Rabbi Hillel teach 2,000 years ago (50 years before Jesus was born), "Receive every person hospitably... Be amongst the disciples of Aaron... loving your fellow man..."

Jews need not feel guilty about enjoying the general aspects of the Christmas season. They belong to us as well as to the Christians, for the Christians share many Jewish teachings with us. When Jesus taught, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself", he was quoting Moses in the Book of Leviticus. How wonderful that Christians have taken this Jewish teaching to be an important part of their religious message! When Jesus taught, "Peace on earth... to men of good will...", he was expressing that Jewish view taught by the Prophet Zechariah (who lived a number of centuries before Jesus), who taught in the name of God, "Not by military might, nor by force, but by My spirit," saith the Lord". Indeed, this passage from the biblical book by Zechariah is read during the Sabbath of Chanukah, a holiday which preceded Christmas (and is emblazoned on the Beth Am Ark).

Historically speaking, if there had been no Chanukah, there would have been no Christmas, for Jesus was born into the Jewish community, and had there been no Chanukah, there would have been no Jewish community. In the year 167 BCE the purpose of the Greco-Syrian Emperor Antiochus, who ruled over Judea, was to eliminate Judaism. It was he who desecrated the temple and ordered a pagan worship service to be conducted there. Had Antiochus succeeded, Judaism would have died out and with it the Jewish people. The Jews rose up against their conquerors, however, and fighting against a much superior army, were able to defeat them and to dedicate the Temple to the worship of the true God. Thus was Judaism saved from extinction, and from the Christian point of view, a Jewish matrix out of which Jesus might be born was preserved.

Jews ought properly to rejoice that so many millions of people have accepted our teachings about a God of justice and mercy and about the goal of peace on earth. The big problem remains, namely, how to extend the "Christmas spirit", the feeling of friendliness and good will, into the rest of the year. Then, of course, the doctrinal religious differences still are significant. Jews do not believe that God became incarnate in one man but that all of us are created in the image of the divine. We do not accept the doctrine of "original sin", i.e. that Adam and Eve earned hell for all of us because they disobeyed God, nor do we accept the doctrine that one person's suffering purchases forgiveness for all the rest of us. We still teach with Jeremiah that the children should not suffer for the sins of the parents, and we teach with Hosea that God will forgive us for our human inadequacies because He is God, overflowing with compassion and concern, and our great task is to try to imitate Him in this and other respects.

YOUNG FAMILY LEAGUE

DANCE, SUBS, D.J.

January 11, 1986 at 8 p.m.

Check \$15, payable to Temple Beth Am

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

--- YOUTH GROUP NEWS ---

5TH & 6TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP
DISNEY WORLD TRIP FEB. 15TH

On Saturday, February 15th, the 5/6th Grade Youth Group will be going to Disney World. The trip is open to ALL 5th and 6th graders. This is a one day trip, leaving early on Saturday the 15th and returning that evening. The cost of the trip is \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members of the Youth Group.

Anyone interested in attending must get their money in and a permission slip as soon as possible to the Temple office. If you have any questions, please call Adrienne at the Temple, 667-6667.

B.A.F.T.Y. TRIP TO DISNEY WORLD/EPCOT
JANUARY 18-19TH

B.A.F.T.Y. will be going to Disney World and Epcot on a two day trip January 18th and 19th. ALL 9-12th graders are welcome. We will be leaving early Saturday and returning on Sunday evening. The cost is \$80 for B.A.F.T.Y. members and \$90 for non-members.

Anyone interested in going, please call Adrienne at 667-6667. or 279-1862.

Youth Trip to New York March 28-31st

The annual B.A.F.T.Y. New York trip will be held during spring break, from March 28th-31st. The trip is open to all 10th-12th graders. We will be visiting various points of Jewish interest in New York City. We will also be seeing the Broadway show, "Cats."

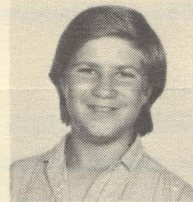
The amount of people who can take the trip is limited, so get your reservation in EARLY. If you are interested in going, please contact Adrienne Borisman at 667-6667 or 279-1862.

(You need not be a member of B.A.F.T.Y. to attend.)

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, December 28th

11:15 a.m.



Marshal, son of
Mrs. Rose Blitz and
Mr. Alan Chaifetz



Jonathan, son of
Mrs. Carol Hoffman and
Dr. David Hoffman

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, January 4th

11:15 a.m.



Andrew, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Freeman



Brandon, son of
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Shevin