



beth am commentator

SEPT. 22, 1978

MIAMI, FLORIDA

RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD

"AN ANALYSIS OF THE CAMP DAVID MEETING"
Friday, September 22, 8:30 p.m., RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Saturday, September 23, 11:15 a.m., TORAH SERVICE

S'LICHOT MIDNIGHT SERVICE SAT., SEPT. 23

**Benton Becker will discuss "Jews in Politics"
at 9:30 in the Youth Lounge**

Benton Becker will be the guest speaker on S'lichot night, and will speak on the subject, "Jews in Politics," beginning at 9:30 p.m., September 23, in the Youth Lounge.

Mr. Becker is the personal attorney to past president Gerald Ford, and represented him during the vice presidential confirmation hearings. Mr. Becker was his advisor during the turbulent years, concluded by President Nixon's resignation.

At 11:30 p.m., Rabbi Baumgard will introduce the Experimental Service which has obtained national reputation. Promptly at midnight, the brief S'lichot, or forgiveness, service will take place.

Rabbi Baumgard uses the occasion of the traditional pre-High Holiday forgiveness service to present a creative service without the use of prayer books. Many of those who have attended this service have said that they have really prayed for the first time. Come for a compelling personal experience. The service itself is 15 minutes.

SPECIAL SERVICE FOR NEW MEMBERS FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, 8:30 P.M., IN SANCTUARY

On Friday evening, September 22, Temple Beth Am will hold a special religious service to welcome our new member families. We should have about 100 new members present at this time.

We cordially invite our entire Temple membership to join our new members in a special "Ask the Rabbi" service and to greet our new members at the Oneg Shabbat following services.

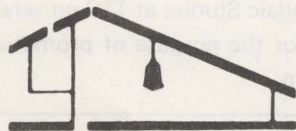
We are looking forward to this opportunity to greet the newest additions to our Beth Am family.

MORE SCENES FROM MEMBERS BREAKFAST



**High Holiday
Admission Cards
Mailed To All
Registered Members**

**Religious and Hebrew School Classes in Session
Rosh Hashanah Starts Sunday, October 1**



The Committee Of 100

The Committee of 100 is happy to welcome to their ranks the following new member families:

Charles and Annette Berc

Seymour and Elaine Cohen

Sam and Brenda Hochberg

In a show of support, the following member families have rejoined the Committee for the new fiscal year.

Larry and Beverly Marks

Herbert and Anne Odell

Rhoda and David Welt



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

The Uniqueness Of The Jewish High Holidays

We are now approaching the High Holiday season. There is a vast difference between the Jewish New Year and the "American" New Year (January 1). The American New Year celebration is based on the Roman celebration in honor of the birthday of the god, Janus (Saturn). In ancient Rome, this celebration was a time for frolicking and orgy, and something of this notion has been retained in the way Americans observe the advent of the new year.

For Jews, the "New" Year meant a time for deep introspection. It was a time for comparing one's personal conduct in terms of the desired norm, and this norm was not less than the demands of a supremely ethical God, unknown to the Romans. Since Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, followed Rosh Hashanah by 10 days, the Jews developed this period of 10 days as a serious time when they were being "judged" by the ethical God. While forgiveness was an essential part of the character of God, the devoted Jew would contemplate the prospects of his not being forgiven. Such a dilemma was part of the spiritual "game." God's forgiveness was assured, but suppose it was not?

The purpose of our High Holiday season is to inspire us to lead a better life--morally speaking. Of course, it is difficult to lead a moral life in a society which has as its goals material success and titillation of the senses. We might call these goals the pagan aspect of America. So strong is the siren call of these goals that our orientation towards Judaism is daily put to the test. Is it possible for one born and raised in America, and thus exposed to this pull towards sensual experience on a daily basis, to be a Jew in any significant way? There are an increasing number of Rabbis who would answer this question in the negative. Americans are much better trained to observe a Saturnalia (the Roman orgy in honor of Saturn-Janus) than they are trained to observe the Yamim Norahim (the "awesome" days associated with the Jewish High Holidays).

If we wish still to be Jews, however, we must try mightily to get into the spirit of our High Holiday period. We must plan and work towards getting into the spirit of the Holidays. These ingredients should be part of your plan: 1) prepare your home in a special way for the Holidays (flowers, Jewish symbols, white tablecloth for dinner, etc.); 2) make sure the whole family comes together for the pre-holiday dinner and for the breakfast at the end of Yom Kippur; 3) hold family discussions about the deeper meaning of life and whether you are in fact living as Jews, leading others to the "messianic society;" 4) take time out to think, when you can be alone, about your personal actions in relation to your family members and in your vocational activities. Are you warm, open, giving, loving, honest, understanding, helpful? Try to reorient yourself to make changes along the lines of these goals; 5) go to the synagogue with your family to all the key services; 6) fast on Yom Kippur as best you can (it does increase the meaning of the Holiday. Try it and see); 7) think about your giving to Jewish communal organizations. Are you doing your share for the Temple and for CJA?

It is part of the Jewish hypothesis of life that there is a God who cares about us as human beings and who calls upon us as Jews to set an example for others (for it was we who discovered this ethical God for the world). Our Holy Day period is not a time for doing what Americans generally do on any other holiday. It is not a time for taking a long needed vacation and enjoying oneself travelling, fishing, etc. It is a time for glorifying our home life and coming together with other Jews in our larger home, the synagogue, to examine our meaning as a group and as individuals. This is not a time to separate ourselves from the group, but to join ourselves to it.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

N. A. A. C. P.

is having a dinner at the Dupont Plaza Hotel on Saturday, November 4, 7:30 p.m.

I am forming several tables at \$26 per person. If you'd like to go with me, make your check to NAACP and send to me now. If you can't go, and want to send a check for same anyhow, please do so. Rabbi Baumgard

GIVE US THE ADDRESS OF YOUR COLLEGIAN

- 1. We will send our special collegian materials.
2. If enough of our young people are at the college, we will visit the college and your collegian.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ College _____

Repeat information for second child. Mail to Rabbi Baumgard, 5950 No. Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156.

JCS ENDOWS COURSES IN FLORIDA

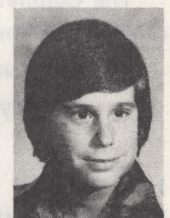
Resident lectureships, accredited courses in Judaica, have been endowed by the Jewish Chautauqua Society in Florida for the 1978-79 academic year.

Three of the lectureships are in the Miami area: Barry College, Bethune Cookman at Daytona Beach, and the University of Miami, Coral Gables, to be taught by Rabbi Herbert M. Baumgard. A new resident lectureship was established at Boca Raton at Florida Atlantic University.

The Jewish Chautauqua Society, the educational project of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, has this year endowed 214 courses in Judaic Studies at 113 universities throughout the United States for the purpose of promoting a better understanding of Judaism.

B'NAI MITZVAH

Saturday September 23 11:15 a.m.



Len Luck, son of Mrs. Rochelle Gellis and Mr. Martin Luck

Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Blair Zimmet