

January 9, 1981

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, January 9, 1981, 8:30 p.m.
RABBI HERBERT M. BAUMGARD
**"A LESSON IN MAGIC - A COMMENTARY ON
 THE PLAGUES AGAINST PHARAOH"**
 TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, January 10, 1981, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

5950 North Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156 • Telephone: 667-6667

U.S. Diplomat To Discuss Foreign Policy At Brotherhood Breakfast, Jan. 18

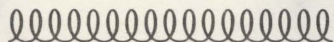
"U.S. Foreign Policy - How Is It Made?" will be the topic of discussion at the next Brotherhood Breakfast Forum on Sunday morning, Jan. 18th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge. As speaker for this talk, we are honored to have from the U.S. State Department Mr. Albert L. Seligman. Mr. Seligman is a 31 year veteran of service with the State Department. He served as language officer and advisor with Gen. McArthur during the occupation of Japan. He also served as political advisor to the U.S. Mission in Berlin. He recently served as counsellor and charge d'affaires at the American Embassy in Tokyo.

One of the political mysteries to most people of this country is trying to fathom how its government sets its foreign policy goals. What priorities do they use to make policy to such diverse countries as Indonesia, Israel, the various Arab countries, etc.? How are these priorities evaluated? Mr. Seligman was the State Department's Deputy Director for Policy Planning at the Department of Defense. He has had direct involvement in making foreign policy decisions. In addition, he has served as political analyst for the governments of Indochina, Indonesia and Japan. He recently assumed the position of Diplomat-In-Residence at the University of Miami Center for Advanced International Studies.

Admission to this all-you-can-eat Breakfast Forum is **FREE** to all Brotherhood members. Sustaining and Life Members of Brotherhood may bring one guest free. For all others, admission is \$2.50. Your friends and neighbors will also enjoy this breakfast, bring them along. Ladies are always welcome at these discussions.

Religious School Teachers Needed

Teachers needed for weekend religious school. Salary commensurate with teaching experience and current certification. Contact Dorothy Herman in the Religious School office 666-2536.



Two Week Deluxe Tour to Israel For Beth Amites June 1981

Seven nights in Egypt. Seven nights in Israel. Tour program selection as you like. Egypt cruise or land tour. Many options. Israel planned tour or just hotel for those who've been there before. Many options here too. Leave Miami June 16th. Deluxe all the way. Full brochure to follow.



Irene Baros Elected National President of Jewish Vocational Service

Irene Baros, a long time member of Temple Beth Am and presently serving on our Board of Directors has been elected as National President of Jewish Vocational Services.

Irene, a native Floridian, has watched the growth of Judaism in South Florida and the growth of Temple Beth Am with great pride. With her husband "Bill" she has been very active in all facets of Temple life and has been in the forefront of activities with the Federation.

This election, well earned, is a source of great pride here at Temple Beth Am.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

- ALL SCHOOLS REOPEN Mon., Jan. 5
- BAFTY DINNER MEETING ... Mon., Jan. 5, 6 p.m., Social Hall
- 9 GRADE YOUTH GROUP DINNER MEETING Mon., Jan. 5, 6 p.m., Youth Lounge
- SCHOOL BOARD MEETING . Tue., Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m., Room 28
- RELIGIOUS SERVICES Fri., Jan. 9, 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- TORAH SERVICES .. Sat., Jan. 10, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m., Sanct.
- CHAVURAH BOX SUPPER
- WORKSHOP Sat., Jan. 10, 6-10 p.m., Social Hall
- ADULT EDUCATION Mon., Jan. 12, 12:15 p.m., Chapel (BUILDING YOUR CHILD'S SELF ESTEEM)
- P.A.T.I.O. Wed., Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m., BAFTY Room
- RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Wed., Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m., Classrooms and Sanctuary
- RELIGIOUS SERVICES Fri., Jan. 16, 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- TORAH SERVICE Sat., Jan. 15, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
- BETH AM SINGLES Sat., Jan. 17, 8 p.m., Youth Lounge
- CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST ... Sun., Jan. 18, 8:30 a.m., Youth Lounge
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS .. Tue., Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m., Room 101
- ADULT EDUCATION .. Tue., Jan. 20, 8-10 p.m., Youth Lounge ("WHAT JEWS BELIEVE ABOUT GOD", RABBI BAUMGARD)
- BOOK REVIEW Thurs., Jan. 22, 9:30 a.m. & 8 p.m., Away
- RELIGIOUS SERVICES Fri., Jan. 23, 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- TORAH SERVICE ... Sat., Jan. 24, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m., Sanct.
- YOUNG SINGLES DANCE ... Sat., Jan. 24, 8 p.m., Social Hall
- SISTERHOOD MEETING ... Wed., Jan. 28, 8 p.m., Social Hall (PLAYLET BY UNITED FAMILY SERVICE)
- SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERT Thurs., Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., Social Hall
- RELIGIOUS SERVICES Fri., Jan. 30, 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- TORAH SERVICES .. Sat., Jan. 31, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m., Sanct.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY
**DON'T WE ALL BELIEVE
 IN THE SAME GOD?**

God

CALENDAR OF ADULT EDUCATION
WINTER 1981

It is not true that all people or groups mean the same thing when they employ the term "God." Philosophers argue quite intensely about the nature of God. They are quite certain that their views are not only different but of various degrees of quality. Those who are most informed about comparative religions can see quite clearly sharp differences in the view of God held by diverse religions. For example:

The ancient Egyptians (not an Arabic people) believed that there were many Gods and that all of them would respond to the correct magical formula. The ancient Egyptians had a word for truth (ma'at), but the word really meant order or regularity. It did not have what we today would call an ethical content.

The classical Eastern view of God is that He has nothing to do with passion or ethics. He is simply that All which agrees with the nature of things. With this God it is a waste of time and energy to thirst for righteousness (in the sense of the reverse of evil), for there is neither good nor evil, no right or wrong, only the natural way. The natural way is whatever exists, so participating in the religious life is a matter of learning how to float with the way things naturally are (accepting the mixture of what we call good and evil).

The fundamentalist Christian view of God is that He has afflicted mankind with the curse of original sin for which we are condemned to hell (or, rather, we have brought this upon ourselves), and we can be "saved" from this destiny only by believing that Jesus died for our sins.

THE JEWISH VIEW OF GOD

The Jewish view of God is that He creates each of us in a pure state, that we are born in His image, and that He enjoins us to imitate Him in His holy deeds. Judaism teaches it is not our faith but our deeds that "save" us.

As one studies the various religions, it becomes clear that each of them has a different understanding not only of the nature of God but also of what He requires from mankind. It is the distinct Jewish contribution to religious thought that God is inevitably associated with Torah - with the moral law. St. Paul, perhaps the main architect of Christianity, sought to disassociate belief in God from the need to observe the Torah.

The Zohar (the mystical Jewish book) teaches that each person understands God in terms of his own developed self. That is to say, we think of God in terms of our own ability to conceive of greatness. Our ability to think of greatness is a function of our own growth, so that at different times of our life we will inevitably have a different view of God. In this sense, an atheist is simply a person who has discarded a concept of God which he held yesterday. *The deeply religious person is one who constantly searches for the greater God*, and he never makes an idol of the concept of God he holds today.





In a thousand member congregation, there may be a thousand concepts of God, yet we use the term as if it had one meaning. In the synagogue service, the term "God" is conditioned by our Jewish history. We mean by God, IN PART what Abraham meant, IN PART what Moses meant, IN PART what Jeremiah meant. We mean by God also IN PART what our mind says and what our heart says. The term "God" is large enough to include all of these things and that is what gives it its dynamic value. *God is what He is, irrespective of our ability to understand Him in His totality*, and when we use His name in the synagogue, we use it as a living symbol of our reaching for The Great Reality. It matters not that our reach is a little short. What makes the reaching a religious matter is that it is done with deep sincerity and yearning.

Camp Coleman Scholarships

Temple Beth Am has a limited amount of scholarship money available to help children in financial need attend Camp Coleman. Anyone interested in applying for a scholarship to Camp Coleman should pick up an application from the Religious School Secretary. Applications must be returned to Rabbi Weinblatt's office by January 20th.

1. "What Jews Believe About God" Rabbi Herbert Baumgard, D.H.L.
 Tuesday evenings, 8:00 P.M. January 20th -- February 10th.
 Is the God of Abraham the same God whom Moses worshipped? Did the Prophet Amos see God the same way the Prophet Hosea did? How did Einstein understand God? Spinoza? What do Jews believe today?
2. "Judaism and Islam" Prof. Yehuda Shamir, Ph.D.
 Tuesday evenings, 8:00 P.M. February 17th -- March 10th
 At a time when Islam has become a resurgent religious and political force in the world, how can Jews better understand it, what prospects are there for Israel and for Jews everywhere in dealing with Arabs and other Muslims?
3. "Sholom Aleichem, Yiddish Humorist" Rabbi Morton Hoffman, M.H.L.
 Tuesday evenings, 8:00 P.M. March 17th -- April 7th
 Short selections from some of Sholom Aleichem's best loved stories about Tevye, Menachem Mendel, and other magnificent shlemiels from such legendary places as Kasrilevke, Yehupetz, and Boiberik will be discussed (in English translation with as much Yiddish as reasonable thrown in).
4. "Hebrew From Scratch" Mrs. Lenore Kipper
 Wednesday evenings, 8:00 P.M. January 21st -- February 11th
 For beginners who were not able to enroll in the starting class last Autumn, a new opportunity is offered. Learn to read basic prayer responses. Required for adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

(Continued on Page 3)

<i>B'nei Mitzvah</i>	
Friday, January 9 8:30 p.m.  Lisa, daughter of Mrs. Jayne Rosenthal and Mr. Ronald Rosenthal	Saturday, January 10 11:15 a.m.  Amy, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Morton Notarius
Saturday, January 10  Mathew, son of Mr. Robert Cicero and Mrs. Bonnie Fiderman	9:15 a.m.  Karen, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George Salzberg
December 25, 1980 in Masada, Israel Robin, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Bloom	