

Temple Beth Elohim

A blend of faith and friendship for over 100 years

Visit our website: www.templebethelohim.net

Volume 17 Issue 1

September/October 2019

Elul (5779)/Tishrei/Cheshvan (5780)

The Rising Star

P.O. Box 571 Georgetown, SC 29442

843 325-0389

tbe@chaitrack.com



Schedule for High Holidays

Friday	27 Sept.	5:00 p.m.	<i>Silichot</i>	Tuesday	8 Oct.	7:30 p.m.	<i>Kol Nidre</i>
Friday	27 Sept.	7:30 p.m.	<i>Shabbat</i>			Leaders:	Joy Birnbaum Ariane Lieberman
		Leader:	Andy Friedman			<i>Kol Nidre Chant:</i>	Joy Birnbaum Ariane Lieberman
Sunday	29 Sept	7:30 p.m.	<i>Erev Rosh HaShanah</i>	Wednesday	9 Oct.	11:00 a.m.	<i>Yom Kippur Morning</i>
		Leaders:	Michele Bennett Shirley Giegerich			Leaders:	Andy Friedman Richard Dimentstein
		<i>Oneg:</i>	Board sponsored			<i>Haftarah:</i>	Michael Davidson
Monday	30 Sept.	11:00 a.m.	<i>Rosh HaShanah</i>	Wednesday	9 Oct.	4:30 p.m.	<i>Yom Kippur Yiskor</i> and Concluding Services
		Leaders:	Andy Friedman Richard Dimentstein			Leader:	Ariane Lieberman
		<i>Haftarah:</i>	Michael Davidson			<i>Shofar:</i>	Louis Drucker
		<i>Shofar:</i>	Louis Drucker			Break-the-fast immediately	
		<i>Tashlich</i>	immediately following			following*	
Friday	4 Oct.	7:30 p.m.	<i>Shabbat Shuvah</i>				
		Leader:	Joy Birnbaum				

*All congregants are invited to partake in Break-the-Fast. If you plan to join us, please *rsvp* to Seymour Birnbaum: e-mail joyandsey@ethanrand.com or phone (843)340-7251 by **1 Oct. 2019**.



The Officers and Trustees of **Temple Beth Elohim** extend to our members and friends sincere wishes for a year of good health, prosperity, safety, and peace.

L'SHANAH TOVAH!

Wisdom From Afar....

Suzan Cohen

We start this essay with the premise that we're all basically good, well-intentioned people. We treat others kindly, are fair and honest, and support charitable causes to the extent that we're able. But there's nothing quite like the High Holy Days services to remind us that even very good people are not perfect.



Ritual Scholar Suzan

I mean, seriously, can you honestly say that there's nothing in the *Al-Chet* prayer ("recitation of sins") on *Yom Kippur* that doesn't make you wince? That there's not a glimmer of recognition of, "oh yeah, I did that"?

The *Al-Chet* consists of 44 statements, or "sins" – or better yet, "mistakes." I prefer the word "mistake" as it suggests a problem that can be corrected – the essence of the process of *teshuvah*. I'm not going to list all the statements here; we'll be getting to that soon enough. But there will surely be one or two that will hit home. Here are a few examples:

- The mistakes we committed through having a hard heart ("charity" solely for a tax deduction is not charitable)
- The mistakes we committed without thinking or without knowledge (get the facts before you judge)
- The mistakes we committed through things we blurted out with our lips (think before you speak!)
- The mistakes we committed with vulgar speech (watch those curse words and ethnic jokes)

The inspiration for this little discourse was a web page that I found on the *Aish* website (see <https://www.aish.com/h/hh/yom-kippur/guide/ExploringtheAl-ChetPrayer.html>). The page lists all 44 statements and provides some commentary that helps to explain it. I highly recommend it as preparation for the High Holy Days. Then when you say *s'lichot* ("forgive us!"), you can sincerely mean it.

L'Shanah Tovah!



May you and those you love

rejoice in the blessings of

Sukkot

Temple Beth Elohim Board of Directors

President: Richard Dimentstein
(rdimentstein@gmail.com)

President Emeritus: Gene Vinik
(annettevinik@hotmail.com)

Vice President: Joy Birnbaum
(joyandseymour@gmail.com)

Secretary: Tish Richter (tish227@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Michele Gershman Bennett
(mbennett1150@gmail.com)

Trustees: Carrol Sallas (sallas2@sccoast.net),
AJ Giegerich (thegiegie@gmail.com) **Shirley Giegerich** (shirleygiegerich@gmail.com), **Andy Friedman** (andy.friedman@hotmail.com), **Craig Lieberman** (heartdocks@aol.com); **Seymour Birnbaum** (joyandsey@ethanrand.com)

TEMPLE MEMBERS, please note: You have access to membership information by going to www.chaitrack.com . If you need a user name and password, contact Andy Friedman, andy.friedman@hotmail.com .

Let us fervently pray for the comfort and recovery of our dear temple members and friends and for the continued strength of their caregivers



Susan & Brian Berry Myles Derison

Dr. Eric Heiden Richard Horowitz Tom Llewellyn

Roberta Schwartz



Tree of Life



Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Inscriptions may be up to 3 lines with 20-25 characters per line. Use a separate sheet if you wish to order more than three leaves.

Leaf 1 _____

Leaf 2 _____

Leaf 3 _____

A check for \$ _____ (\$36 per leaf) has been enclosed. Checks should be made payable to **Temple Beth Elohim**.

Thanks for your support.

Mail to: TBE, PO Box 571, Georgetown, SC 29442

Let us pray together for the speedy recovery and complete restoration of health of

SHANE FINKEL

grandson of Carrol Sallas

CHARITY DRIVES

We have set up two receptacles in our social hall. One is for clothing items. The other is for non-perishable food, toiletries and sundries. All that we collect will be donated to a local shelter or food pantry.

Please remember this when you are removing things from your drawers, closets and cabinets.

The Temple Beth Elohim Gift Shop Is Now Open

Each and every Friday, before *Shabbat*, we will be selling Judaic items such as *mezuzah*, *yahrzeit* lights, ceramic trivets, Chanukah candles, and an assortment of unique objects d'art. Joy Birnbaum and Carrol Sallas will be on hand to act as customer service representatives.

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

1 Edwina Friedman
15 Richard Dimentstein
16 Carrol Sallas
19 Seymour Birnbaum
20 Andy Friedman
30 Johanna Goldman



OCTOBER

2 Anthony Cavaliere
5 Marilyn Horowitz
12 Myla Specht
13 Debbie Smith
16 Alex Cohen



SEPTEMBER

2 Johanna & Rob Goldman
10 Kathryn & David Kossove
13 Edwina & Andy Friedman
16 Lynn & Michael Davidson
17 Ariane & Craig Lieberman

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

8 Adele Franzblau
& Marty Kleinrock



Hello, are there any Jews in Georgetown?

By Joy Birnbaum

When my husband, Seymour, and I first investigated moving to Georgetown, SC, 16 years ago, we decided we would move there only if a temple was nearby. Thanks to the internet, a few phone calls, and a drive around town, we discovered Temple Beth Elohim, a small reform congregation in the historic area of Georgetown. We attended a Friday night service and were warmly welcomed by the congregation. That was the clincher! We immediately knew we would finalize the purchase of the land we looked at, and build our home in Georgetown.

Interestingly, Temple Beth Elohim (TBE) never had a dedicated rabbi. Over the years, there have been lay leaders, and for a brief time, we were honored to have Rabbi Deborah Slavitt as a part time rabbi. I feel honored that I had the opportunity to study with Reb Deb (what we affectionately called her) and had my *bat mitzvah* in 2011. Now I serve as one of our ten lay leaders. We all bring different levels of expertise and style to the *bima* each week.

As time elapsed, we became more and more involved in the mechanics of the temple. We served on the Board, Seymour became the contact person for the temple's historic cemetery, we hosted adult ed. classes and *havdallah* dinners at our home, among other labors of love.

Our temple friends have become our extended family. We share joys and sadness, celebrate holidays together, and share life's ups and downs. We are surrounded by a diverse group of people with whom we pray and play. Who could have imagined that Georgetown, SC would have brought such richness into our lives?

There is a problem pending. When we first joined TBE, membership was increasing due to the hard work of Elizabeth Moses. She sought opportunities to find potential members. She built our membership from a frightening 6 to 46. Now, 15 years later, our membership is once again on a decline. Sadly, there have been deaths, people have relocated or just not rejoined. Our membership renewals have been recently mailed, and we're hoping to have somewhere between 25 and 30 families, if we're lucky. We need more members, not only to support our aging building, but to keep Georgetown's Jewish history alive. We certainly don't ever want to be in a position to have to close our doors like many other temples in the South and around the country have experienced.

Temple Beth Elohim has a unique congregation. We have a mixture of all kinds of people, including inter-marriages, and converts. Was your mother Jewish and your father not? Don't be surprised, that makes you Jewish. We need you. We also need younger people to carry on our Jewish traditions and to keep TBE great for the future.

Consider making Temple Beth Elohim part of your life. Call the office at (843)325-0389, and leave us a message, or e-mail us at tbe@chaitrack.com or find a membership form on the website, www.templebethelohim.net. Let us know that you and/or your family would like to join us for Friday night services, or attend holiday services. It is our sincere wish, that by spending time with us, you will want to become a member of our congregation.

So yes, there are Jews in Georgetown, plus Pawleys Island, Litchfield, Murrells Inlet and Surfside Beach. We know there are more of you out there, so please consider becoming part of our temple family.



THE STORY OF THE BOOTHS

Sukkot, a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. It also commemorates the 40 years of Jewish wandering in the desert after the giving of the *Torah* atop Mt. Sinai. *Sukkot* is celebrated five days after *Yom Kippur* on the 15th of the month of *Tishrei* and is marked by several distinct traditions. One, which takes the commandment to dwell in booths literally, is to erect a *sukkah*, a small, temporary booth or hut. *Sukkot* (in this case, the plural of *sukkah*) are commonly used during the seven-day festival for eating, entertaining and even for sleeping.

Sukkot also called *Z'man Simchateinu* (Season of Our Rejoicing), is the only festival associated with an explicit commandment to rejoice. A final name for *Sukkot* is *Chag HaAsif* (Festival of the Ingathering), representing a time to give thanks for the bounty of the earth during the fall harvest.

DONATIONS



Michele & Jim Bennett to the General Fund

Richard Dimentstein to the General Fund in memory of Edna Dimentstein and to the General Fund

Ruth Farb to the General Fund and in honor of *Mishebeirach*

Shirley & AJ Giegerich to the General Fund in memory of Albert Ader

Kathryn & David Kossove to the General Fund

Ariane & Craig Lieberman to the General Fund in memory of Sonia Kolsky and Rose Ulrich

Mischelle & Gerald Napoleone to the General Fund in memory of Elizabeth Moses

Tish Richter to the General Fund

Carrol Sallas to the General Fund in memory of Mary Levine

Janet Solomon to the General Fund in memory of Beatrice Solomon

Carol & Bob Willey to the General Fund

The Fast of Gedaliah

2 October 2019

The fast is observed on the day immediately following *Rosh HaShanah*, the third of *Tishrei*. In the Prophetic Writings, this fast is called "The Fast of the Seventh" in allusion to *Tishrei*, the seventh month.

When Nebuchadnetzar, King of Babylonia, destroyed the Temple's Sanctuary in Jerusalem and exiled the Jewish people to Babylonia, he allowed an impoverished remnant to remain in the land and appointed Gedaliah Ben Achikam as their Governor. Many Jews who had fled to Moab, Ammon, Edom, and other neighboring lands returned to the land of Yehudah, tended the vineyards given to them by the King of Babylonia and enjoyed a new respite after their earlier oppression. The King of Ammon, however, hostile and envious of the Judean remnant, sent a loyal Jew, Yishmael Ben Netaniah, to assassinate Gedaliah. In the seventh month (*Tishrei*), Yishmael came to Gedaliah in the town of Mitzpa, and was received cordially. Gedaliah had been warned of his guest's murderous intent but refused to believe his informants in the belief that their report was mere slander. Yishmael murdered Gedaliah, together with most of the Jews who had joined him and numbers of Babylonians whom the Babylonian King had left with Gedaliah. The remaining Jews feared the vengeance of the Babylonian King and fled to Egypt.

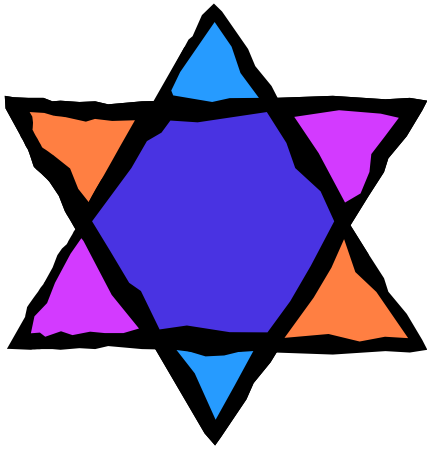
The surviving remnant of Jews was thus dispersed, and the land remained desolate. In remembrance of these tribulations, our Sages instituted the "Fast of the Seventh" on the day of Gedaliah's assassination in the seventh month.

Our New Safety Measure

The side door of our synagogue (Highmarket Street) will be locked once services begin at 7:30 p.m. Worshipers are asked to proceed to the main entrance (Screven Street). If this is a hardship, then please ring the doorbell to the right of the doorpost and someone will let you in.

Mi Shebeirach List

A prayer for healing is chanted at each *Shabbat* service. The leader of the service will read from a list and then invite the congregation to call out names that are not on this list that is read weekly. If you wish to have a name added to the weekly list (or removed), you must submit the name to Richard Dimentstein (rdimentstein@gmail.com).



First Class
Postage

SHALOM

A blend of faith and friendship for over 100 years

Temple Beth Elohim
P. O. Box 571
Georgetown, SC 29442

Temple Beth Elohim

A blend of faith and friendship for over 100 years



Committee Members

Ritual Chair: Seymour Birnbaum (Richard Dimentstein)
Membership/Publicity Chair: Joy Birnbaum
Cemetery Chair: Seymour Birnbaum
Communications: Andy Friedman
Finance Chair: Michele Gershman Bennett
Sunshine Committee Chair: Tish Richter
Building & Grounds Chair: Seymour Birnbaum (Craig Lieberman)
Newsletter Editors: Richard Dimentstein, Joy Birnbaum, Jana Hletko
Library Chair: Richard Dimentstein
Oneg Shabbats: Joy Birnbaum
Web Page: Joy Birnbaum
Special Events: Donna Llewellyn, Tom Llewellyn
Website (www.templebethelohim.net): Joy Birnbaum
Photography: Rosa Lee & Eric Heiden