

Temple Beth Elohim

A blend of faith and friendship for over 115 years

Visit our website: www.templebethelohim.net

Volume 17 Issue 5
May/ June 2020
Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz (5780)

The Rising Star

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TEMPLE WORSHIP...TEMPLE BUSINESS LIKE NEVER BEFORE

My usual format in *The Rising Star* is to review recent events and then share upcoming events. How does one do that when the doors to Temple Beth Elohim closed after *Shabbat* services on 13 March 2020 and have remained shut even as I create this newsletter?

On 6 March 2020, we celebrated *Purim* with masks, *groggers*, costumes and Andy Friedman reading the *Magilla* to us. We made as much noise as we could and then rewarded ourselves with all of the goodies that our members brought. We left that evening believing that our next celebration would be the *Passover seder* on 8 April 2020.

As the week progressed, the planning committee, led by Seymour Birnbaum, started preparations by shopping for supplies and ordering food and condiments. By *Shabbat* the following week we were stocked and ready to make set-up plans for the big dinner. ...and then the news broke.

We are blessed to have a caring friend like Robin Shuler who gave us the opportunity to celebrate *Shabbat* via YouTube with her musical talents and with Rabbi Greg Kanter and Rabbi Stephanie Alexander of Kahal Kodesh Beth Elohim (Charleston) carrying out the rituals.

Passover arrived while most of us were on "self-quarantine." Each of us must have an anecdote that describes how we did/didn't celebrate the holiday.

This evening (Friday, May 1), we shall attempt to have our first *Shabbat* service via Zoom. Thanks to Andy Friedman's computer skills and Joy Birnbaum's leadership we are "good to go."

It's difficult to look at the immediate future. How do we conduct elections? How do we hold the Annual Membership Meeting? How do we celebrate *Shavuot* (May 29)?

If you look above the masthead of this page, you will notice that this is the fifth issue of *The Rising Star* for year 5780. Issue 6 is always the last one before the New Year. Let us hope that we will be able to plan High Holy Days that are somewhat traditional.

R A D



Israeli Independence Day (April 29)
See p. 4 – An Item of Special Interest

Wisdom From Afar....

Suzan Cohen

Observing the holidays when you can't gather to celebrate

As I write this, it is the ninth day since the first day of Passover, and ten days since what would have been our community *seder* that we weren't allowed to gather to celebrate. A hard, bitter pill to swallow for sure, as we are a tightly knit community. But we also are a strong community, and we are discovering how to stay connected in ways that are not dependent on being in the same room. Indeed, we can find many small ways to stay connected to both our faith (e.g., lighting *Shabbat* candles at home and finding virtual services online) and our faith community (oh, the blessings of e-mail and social media!)



Ritual Scholar Suzan

As for observing the holidays, most of May is devoted to counting the *omer*. This refers to the forty-nine days between the barley harvest in the early spring and the summer wheat harvest. We generally start counting the days after the first *seder*, and it ends on *Shavuot* (more on that in a bit). Besides counting the days, the period of *omer* is observed as a time of semi-mourning, during which *Halachah* forbids haircuts, shaving, listening to instrumental music, or conducting weddings, parties, or dinners with dancing. (It's a little like being in quarantine – who knew we were accidentally being so observant!)

On the fiftieth day, *Shavuot*, the second of the three pilgrimage festivals, is observed. While *Shavuot* was originally little more than an agricultural festival, over time it has come to be regarded as the date at which the Jews received the *Torah* at Mount Sinai. Counting the days between Passover and *Shavuot* is sometimes regarded as a time of spiritual preparation and anticipation for the giving of the *Torah*.



18 Iyar 5780 – 12 May 2020



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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 Michael Davidson Myles Derison

Dr. Eric Heiden Richard Horowitz

Donna & Tom Llewellyn Dick Rosen Roberta Schwartz



Tree of Life



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Use a separate sheet if you wish to order more than three leaves.

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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

BIRTHDAYS

MAY

- 1 Stan Earnhart
- 2 Elzbieta Sobolewska
- 4 Debbi Jones
- 7 Gerald Berkman
- 7 Noreen Davis
- 13 Joy Birnbaum
- 13 Ariane Lieberman
- 16 Brenda Rosen
- 21 Richard Horowitz
- 24 Ruth Feinberg



JUNE

- 3 Shirley Giegerich
- 3 Eric Heiden
- 14 Marsha Green
- 26 Jana Hletko
- 29 Donna Llewellyn
- 30 Kathryn Kossove



MAY

- 5 Ruth & Herb Feinberg
- 18 Roberta & Steve Schwartz
- 20 Randy & Tony Cavaliere

ANNIVERSARIES



JUNE

- 10 Myla & Michael Specht
- 18 Susan & Brian Berry

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS – A CLOSER LOOK

Shavuot is observed on the 6th day of *Sivan* (29 May 2020 on the secular calendar). The ancient custom of offering up sheaves of wheat at the temple in Jerusalem has long since been supplanted by observing it as the time when we remember the giving of the *Torah* at Mount Sinai.

In the context of its time, when gods were regarded as capricious forces of nature to be appeased at any cost, the *Torah* is an astonishing document. *Yahweh*, through the Exodus from Egypt, has shown His power and His commitment to the Hebrew people. In delivering the Jews from Egypt, God is fulfilling His covenant with Abraham,

Continued on p. 4 [The Ten Commandments – A Closer Look]

DONATIONS

Tish Richter to the General Fund in memory of Pearl Richter



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS – A CLOSER LOOK

Continued from p. 3

and now He is offering them the written terms for that covenant – what was essentially a contract. The people don't have to guess what God expects of them; the expectations are spelled out for them (often in excruciating detail).

And the Ten Commandments are the basic terms, in writing (etched in stone, actually). So each year at *Shavuot*, we recite them again, to remind ourselves of our obligations. But it also gives us the opportunity to take a fresh look at what the commandments say. According to Jewish tradition, the first five commandments (Exodus 20:2-11) were inscribed on the first tablet, and they deal with the relationship between God and humanity:

1. I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt.
2. You shall have no other gods beside me.
3. You shall not make sculpted images and bow down to them and worship them.
4. You shall not swear falsely by the name of the Lord your God.
5. You shall remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

The last five commandments (Exodus 20:12-14) are inscribed on the second tablet, and they concern people's relationships with other people:

6. You shall honor your father and your mother.
7. You shall not murder.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's.

So, the Ten Commandments are not just about accepting God as the only God, but that the path to honoring God is by treating other people ethically and righteously. It is the cornerstone to living our lives with devotion to God and Justice toward others.

AN ITEM OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Bob Willey is the President of FOGL (Friends of Georgetown Library). In addition to that, he and wife Carol are also very special friends to Temple Beth Elohim. He shared the following e-mail with us:

To our dear family and friends:

Carol and I found the following beautiful prayer/song on YouTube through The Times of Israel. It was performed/sung/prayed two years ago in 2018, the 70th anniversary of Israel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxzR9Z-kG6Q>

*We join in the prayer,
Bob and Carol*

Please note that the video has closed captioning in French. To eliminate this move your cursor to the lower right corner and click on "CC." The French will disappear.



Yahrzeits



MAY

2 Sylvan Rosen father of Dick Rosen
 3 Rebecca Logan Baker grandmother of Debbi Jones
 3 Anne Drucker mother of Louis Drucker
 3 Thelma Engel Goldstein member Temple Beth Elohim
 5 Arlene Sturm friend of Temple Beth Elohim
 10 Rosie G. Goldstein member Temple Beth Elohim
 11 Debby Baruch Abrams member Temple Beth Elohim
 11 Beatrice Solomon mother-in-law of Janet Solomon
 12 Rick Richter husband of Tish Richter
 12 Harry Rosen father of Marilyn Horowitz
 14 Jacob M. Ringel member Temple Beth Elohim
 16 Alfred Lefkow grandfather of Ariane Lieberman and Myla Specht
 17 Laura Chapin Abrams member Temple Beth Elohim
 19 Morris Abrams member Temple Beth Elohim
 19 Samuel Kolsky great grandfather of Craig Lieberman
 20 Alfred Dube father of Jana Hletko
 20 Jennie Surasky Levkoff grandmother of Dick Rosen
 20 Pauline Koppel mother of Gary Koppel
 21 John Cavaliere father of Tony Cavaliere
 22 Patricia Giegerich mother of AJ Giegerich
 26 Paul Levine brother of Nancy Koppel
 26 Audrey Rowe Smith member Temple Beth Elohim
 28 Hyman Kaufman member Temple Beth Elohim

MAY

29 Clara Fogel member Temple Beth Elohim
 29 Morris Ader father of Shirley Giegerich
 30 Naomi Specht mother of Michael Specht
 30 Constance Karesh Franzblau mother of Adele Franzblau
 30 Bernard Meyer member Temple Beth Elohim

JUNE

Henry Lowenstein grandfather of Henry Lowenstein
 2 Carole Gottlieb member Temple Beth Elohim
 3 Estelle Smith mother of Johanna Goldman
 5 Charlotte Goldman mother of Eileen Kramer
 6 Henry "Mel" Brown friend of Richard Dimentstein
 10 Ed King father-in-law of Eric Heiden
 14 Philip Schneider father of Susan Berry
 15 Frank Danzig member Temple Beth Elohim
 17 Alan Baslaw friend of Temple Beth Elohim
 17 Morris Salles father-in-law of Carrol Sallas
 20 Helmar Abrams member Temple Beth Elohim
 21 Esther Zelesnick great grandmother of Craig Lieberman
 22 Edith Pockell mother of Sheila Borash
 23 Henry L. Levkoff uncle of Susan Berry
 24 Rae Zelesnick grandmother of Craig Lieberman
 26 Louis Bodian member Temple Beth Elohim
 29 Maurice Emanuel member Temple Beth Elohim



Any corrections or additions please contact Richard Dimentstein rdimentstein@gmail.com or at tbe@chaitrack.com . Names are read every Friday night for *yahrzeits* of the upcoming week.

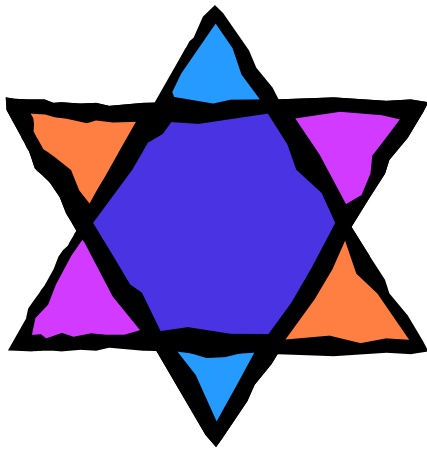
New Memorial Plaques

Plaques are displayed permanently on our *Yahrzeit* Board and are lit on the death anniversary of the honoree. Any member who would like to memorialize a loved one should speak with one of our Board members.

Beth Elohim Cemetery

Cemetery plots are for sale in our unique, historic resting place. The Cemetery Committee, chaired by SEYMOUR BIRNBAUM, has prepared the appropriate documentation for the purchase of gravesites.

Call the temple (843 325-0389) and request copies of Burial Rights, Rules and Regulations, Fee Schedule, and a schematic of burial plot locations. All plots include perpetual care. Plots are only available to current members of Temple Beth Elohim and to their families.



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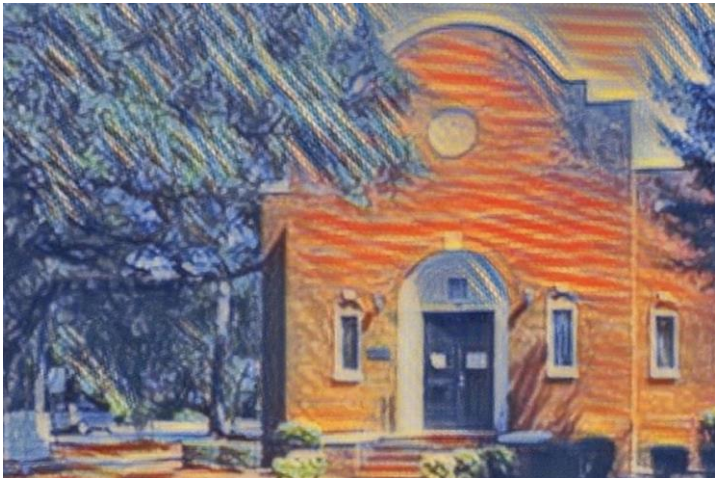
SHALOM

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