

Temple Beth Elohim

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The Rising Star

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s UNCERTAIN JEWISH LEGACY

Martin Luther King Day is approaching, and it is on the cusp of Black History Month in February of the year that marks the 51st anniversary of King's death. He was killed by a single rifle shot at a minute past 6 p.m. on April 4, 1968 as he stood on the balcony of a motel in Memphis. He was there in support of the city's striking African-American sanitation workers. He was 39 years old.

"My people were brought to America in chains. Your people were driven here to escape the chains fashioned for them in Europe. Our unity is born of our common struggle for centuries, not only to rid ourselves of bondage, but to make oppression of any people by others an impossibility.

"There are Hitlers loose in America today, both in high and low places....As the tensions and bewilderment of economic problems become more severe, history's scapegoats, the Jews, will be joined by new scapegoats, the Negroes. The Hitlers will seek to divert people's minds and turn their frustrations and anger to the helpless, the outnumbered. Then whether the Negro and Jew shall live in peace will depend upon how firmly they resist, how effectively they reach the minds of the decent Americans to halt this deadly diversion....

"Some have bombed the homes and churches of Negroes; and in recent acts of inhuman barbarity, some have bombed your synagogues."

Three months after Dr. King said those words, The Temple in Midtown Atlanta was bombed. The bombing was seen as retaliation by white supremacists for Rabbi Jacob Rothschild's support of the civil rights movement.

When Atlanta's white conservative business community showed little interest in honoring Dr. King, a not-so-veiled "you need us more than we need you"

message from the highest echelons of Coca-Cola's Atlanta headquarters spurred the sale of 1,500 tickets.

Rabbi Rothschild introduced Dr. King by saying, "In striving to create a world of brotherhood and dignity for every man, in seeking to achieve contentment and fulfillment in every human heart, he sets an example of conduct and goals for all men. For surely without tranquility of the human soul then the dream we have of a peaceful world lies forever beyond the grasp of mankind...."

In his speech, Martin Luther King, Jr. said, Anyone sensitive to the present moods, morals and trends in our nation must know that the time for racial justice has come. The issue is no longer whether segregation and discrimination will be eliminated but how they will pass from the American scene. The deep rumbling of discontent that we hear today is the thunder of disinherited masses, rising from dungeons of oppression to the bright hills of freedom.

"These developments should not surprise any student of history. Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The yearning for freedom eventually manifests itself. The Bible tells the thrilling story of how Moses stood in the Pharaoh's court centuries ago and cried, 'Let my people go.' This is a kind of opening chapter in a continuing story. The present struggle in our country is a later chapter in a

[continued on p. 5. "Uncertain Legacy"]

Wisdom From Afar....

Suzan Cohen

I was flipping through my Jewish calendar looking for inspiration for this article, when I came upon something new under the sun, at least for me. Did you know that January 27th is International Holocaust Remembrance Day? Since it's not the same as our Jewish holy day of *Yom HaShoah*, I needed to learn more.



According to *Wikipedia*, International Holocaust Remembrance Day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7 on November 1, 2005. Beginning on January 27, 2006, which was the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, the International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed every year to commemorate the tragedy of the Holocaust, the genocide that resulted in the deaths of 6 million Jews and 11 million others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

From the website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, I learned that resolution 60/7 also supports the development of educational programs to remember the Holocaust and to prevent further genocide. "Resolution 60/7 not only establishes January 27th as 'International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust,' it also rejects any form of Holocaust denial. The resolution encourages member states of the UN to actively preserve sites that the Nazis used during the 'Final Solution' (for example, killing centers, concentration camps, and prisons.) Drawing from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the resolution condemns all forms of 'religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief' throughout the world."

[Continued on p. 5, "International Holocaust Remembrance Day"]



*Happy
Presidents
Day*

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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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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

JANUARY

4 Ruth Farb



FEBRUARY

2 Adele Franzblau
19 Janet Solomon
20 Tish Richter
26 Alan Gramet



JANUARY

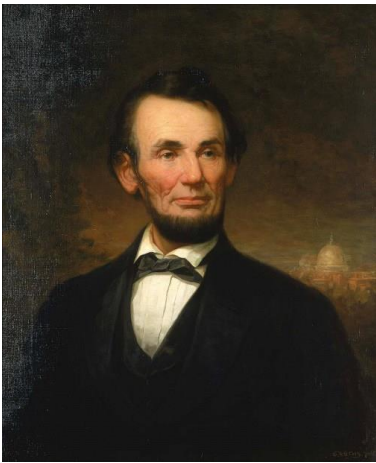
17 Ruth Farb &
Dick Charlton
29 Gary & Nancy
Koppel

ANNIVERSARIES



FEBRUARY

2 Brenda & Dick
Rosen
25 Marilyn & Richard
Horowitz



Why American Jews Revere Abraham Lincoln

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D.

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D., is the senior rabbi of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, PA, and the Chair-Elect of the Board of Governors of Gratz College. A historian of the American Jewish experience, Sussman has taught at Princeton, Binghamton University (SUNY), and Hunter College. A prolific author, he is currently editing a volume of his own essays and working on a television documentary on Philadelphia Jewish history.

In many ways, Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), the 16th president of the United States, remains one of the most “biblical” figures in American history. Despite contemporaneous suspicions of his being an agnostic, much of what he wrote was infused with scriptural quotations favoring the Hebrew Bible to the New Testament by a four to one margin. Moreover, he came to understand the Civil War and the destruction of slavery in biblical terms and later, saw a biblical mandate in “binding up the wounds of the nation.” Unlike New England Puritans during the Colonial era who loved Hebrew but disdained Hebrews, Lincoln only read the Bible in English and viewed the Jews of his time in high esteem. While Civil War era Jews largely supported Lincoln along regional and party lines, he later achieved legendary status among American Jews and others who later more broadly revered the martyred president for saving the Union and for his biblically informed writings and worldview.

Although American Jews widely admired both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, Lincoln was the first president to have extensive social contact with Jews in the United States. Abraham Jonas of Springfield, Illinois, whose sons fought on both sides during the Civil War, was himself an active Republican who helped place Lincoln in nomination in 1860. Samuel G. Alschuler, a Bavarian Jewish immigrant and photographer, took numerous photographic portraits of Lincoln from his days as a young, rising politician to the president’s funeral procession as it worked its way through Chicago en route to his final resting place in Springfield. As president, Lincoln was regularly attended to by a Jewish foot doctor, Issachar Zacharie, who was a favorite of the whole Lincoln family and served as a trusted emissary and diplomat for the president. Recent scholarship has demonstrated that Lincoln occasionally sought out plays with Jewish themes, an unusual cultural interest at the time.

During the war, Lincoln continued to encounter American Jews. By 1860, there were approximately 150,000 Jews in the United States who congregated in 200 synagogues, the majority of which were in pro-Union states.

Of the 10,000 Jews estimated to have served during the war, 7,000 fought for the North including multiple generals and Congressional Medal of Honor winners. Lincoln was personally involved in two wartime Jewish issues. He personally commissioned the first Jewish Army chaplain, overriding Congressional legislation that provided only for the appointment of “ministers of the Gospel.” In addition, Lincoln personally intervened in the matter of Ulysses S. Grant’s infamous 1862 General Order 11 which expelled all Jewish civilians from the Army’s Department of Tennessee. Lincoln’s actions affirmed the full enfranchisement of American Jews as citizens of the United States and prevented the erosion of Jewish civil rights in the Union. By contrast, his political enemies subjected Grant to years of charges of personal anti-Semitism.

It is possible that the familiar opening words of the Gettysburg Address, “Four score and seven years ago,” were influenced by a sermon offered by Sabato Morais, cantor of **Congregation Mikveh Israel** in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1863, and later communicated to Lincoln by members of Philadelphia’s Union League. For sure, the actual text of the Emancipation Proclamation was disseminated by a Jewish telegraph operator, Edward Rosewater, after Lincoln gave his historic talk. On March 4, 1865, Lincoln gave his second inaugural address, a deeply moving speech filled with biblical quotes and metaphors, which Lincoln himself viewed as his finest work. According to a report offered by Mary Lincoln a year later, the president shared with her a desire for them to visit Jerusalem shortly before his assassination. Lincoln’s death, which occurred during Passover, evoked a tremendous response from the American Jewish community and even sparked a controversy that Lincoln himself was of Jewish ancestry, an unproven assertion. In a larger sense, Lincoln had become “Father Abraham” of the entire American nation, Jews and gentiles alike.

DONATIONS



Richard Dimentstein to the General Fund in memory of Herbert Dimentstein

Ruth Farb to the General Fund

Ruth & Herbert Feinbert to the General Fund

Adele & Marty Kleinrock to the General Fund

Ariane & Craig Lieberman to the General Fund in memory of Charles Zelesnick and Morris Lieberman

Elizabeth & David P. Nadle holiday donation to the General Fund

Helaine & Charlie Rotgin Family Fund to the General Fund

Carrol Sallas to the General Fund in memory of Jerome Sallas

Mischelle & Gerald Napoleone to the General Fund in memory of Robert M. Schimek

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

[Continued from p. 2]

My research also tells me that observances of this day have been occurring annually throughout the world and that many countries have their own Holocaust-related commemorations. So, why don't we hear more about these observances? In a world of rising anti-Semitism and rising anti "anybody else who doesn't look like me, live like me, or think like me," we all need opportunities to remind ourselves of the terrible places that intolerance and, indeed, hatred can take us.

UNCERTAIN LEGACY

[continued from p. 1]

In the same unfolding story. Something within has reminded the Negro of his birthright of freedom, and something without has reminded him that it can be gained."

Janice Rothschild Blumberg is Rabbi Jacob Rothschild's widow. At that ceremony, she added words of her own. "When someone, in this case Dr. King, is a friend, it's hard to conceive of that person as being a real icon.

"My first impulse is that his legacy is so much bigger than what Jews think about. You know the Jewish expression, from Moses to Moses (Maimonides), there's no one like Moses. I really believe that decades

from now, Christianity will have that kind of expression, from Martin Luther to Martin Luther King, because he made the monumental change in Christianity.

"His message is that you judge people by the content of their character, and it resonates so with me because my mother had taught me that, in almost the same words. That's the secret to getting along in this world."



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).



Yahrzeits



JANUARY

3 Jodi-Ann Wollman sister of Randi Wollman
 4 B. Albert Friedman father of Andy Friedman
 7 Albert L. Kurtz member Temple Beth Elohim
 7 Beverlie D. Hudson mother of Rosa Lee Heiden
 8 Eli Fishbein uncle of Ariane Lieberman
 8 Carrol Abrams member Temple Beth Elohim
 12 Harry Rosen grandfather of Dick Rosen
 15 Cerna Cornis aunt of Ruth Farb
 16 Ned Cohen husband of Suzan Cohen
 20 Milton Ross father of Lynn Davidson
 21 Milton Rosenfeld Uncle of Michele Bennett
 21 Bernice Young mother of Suzan Cohen
 22 Evelyn Poaster mother of Tish Richter
 23 Morris Cohen father-in-law of Suzan Cohen
 24 Pearl Davidson mother of Michael Davidson
 25 Sam R. Berne father of Randy Cavaliere
 25 Maurice S. Lumiansky grandfather of Debbie Smith
 26 Bonnie Linado member Temple Beth Elohim
 26 Evelyn Nitzberg mother of Susan Richman
 26 Nettie T. Stern member Temple Beth Elohim
 26 Irene Hurwitz member Temple Beth Elohim
 27 Evelyn Levine mother of Nancy Koppel
 28 Albert A. Kossove father of David Kossove
 29 Rita Fogel member Temple Beth Elohim
 30 Tillye King mother-in-law Eric Heiden
 31 Rabbi Deborah Slavitt teacher Temple Beth Elohim



FEBRUARY

3 Irving Schwartz member Temple Beth Elohim
 3 Ralph Gold friend Temple Beth Elohim
 4 Dorothy B. Lichtenstein aunt of Michele Bennett
 6 Alma Berne mother of Randy Cavaliere
 7 Morris Ulrich grandfather of Myla Specht
 grandfather of Ariane Lieberman
 7 Ida L. Sisser member Temple Beth Elohim
 8 Barnet Levine father of Carrol Sallas
 8 Ruth Wollman grandmother of Randi Wollman
 8 Jacob Sisser member Temple Beth Elohim
 9 Julia Abrams member Temple Beth Elohim
 9 Kitty Jacoby grandmother of Marty Kleinrock
 10 Dorothy Schneider mother of Susan Berry
 12 Gail Jacoby Anderman mother of Marty Kleinrock
 12 Morris Horowitz father of Richard Horowitz
 father of Roberta Schwartz
 13 Harold Schneider uncle of Susan Berry
 16 Blossom Rand mother of Joy Birnbaum
 16 Jules Nitzberg father of Susan Richman
 17 Ruth Ader mother of Shirley Giegerich
 21 Edward Wollman grandfather of Randi Wollman
 22 J J Heiden father of Eric Heiden
 23 Gloria Richman wife of Lonnie Richman
 26 Ida E. Danzig 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.

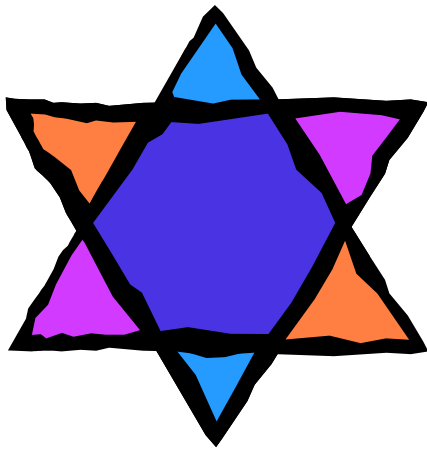
New Memorial Plaques

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 (843 283-7145) and request for copies of Burial Rights, Rules and Regulations, Fee Schedule, and a schematic of burial plot locations. All plots include perpetual care and will be available to current members of Temple Beth Elohim and to Non-temple members at a higher cost.



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Membership/Publicity Chair: Joy Birnbaum
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Web Page: Joy Birnbaum
Special Events: Donna Llewellyn, Tom Llewellyn
Website (www.templebethelohim.net): Joy Birnbaum
Photography: Rosa Lee & Eric Heiden