

## Temple Beth Elohim

A blend of faith and friendship for 120 years

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Tishrei/Cheshvan/Kislev (5785)

# The Rising Star

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25 December 2024 – 2 January 2025 – *Happy Chanukah* – 25 Kislev – 2 Tivet 5785



President Richard

### *From the President*

#### *Chanukah...Elsewhere*

Many Decembers ago, while visiting relatives in the Pittsburgh area, it was suggested that while I was downtown, I should visit the lobby of the all-glass PPG Building. On display were large tableaux of Christmas scenes from all over the world. It was interesting to see how the holiday was celebrated in tropical climates and on desert terrains.

What about *Chanukah*? There are Jewish communities all over the world and the *Torah* does not provide any do's or don'ts about this festival. So, I "hit the books."

Many of the most well-known traditions are universal. Whether you are in Argentina or Zimbabwe, Jews will mark the eight-day celebration by lighting a *menorah*, eating fried foods and recounting the victorious story of

the Maccabees and the restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem.

But Jews around the world have also developed *Chanukah* customs that are unique to their local community. For example, while jelly-filled donuts (*sufganiyot*) are a mainstay among Ashkenazi Jews, *Chanukah* in southern India is celebrated by making

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# Wisdom From Afar....

Suzan Cohen



Ritual Scholar  
Suzan

It's November, standard time is returning for a few months, and you're probably planning for Thanksgiving and maybe giving some thought to *Chanukah*. *Chanukah* is "late" this year – first candles will be lit on the evening of December 25<sup>th</sup> – although on the Hebrew calendar it starts on the 25<sup>th</sup> of *Kislev*, as it does every year. But it's probably not too early to start thinking about what *Chanukah* gifts to buy for our loved ones.

Some families hold the custom of giving at least one small gift to each family member on each of the eight nights of *Chanukah*, while other families may exchange one or two larger gifts. In other families, children may be given *gelt* to use for playing the *dreidel* game. But, did you know that there is no requirement to exchange any gifts at all?

Since *Chanukah* commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in their war against the Greeks – an event that occurred long after the *Torah* was written – it's not technically a *chag* (religious holiday). Even though it's a minor holiday in countries that are predominantly Christian, it's occurrence on the secular calendar around the time of Christmas has led *Chanukah* to be given far more attention than most minor holidays.

Originally, gift giving among Jewish communities was associated only with *Purim*, because in the Book of Esther people celebrated their rescue from the plot of Haman by exchanging gifts with one another and giving gifts to the poor. In the early medieval and early minor period, schoolchildren started giving secular year-end bonuses to their teachers at *Chanukah*. This is the origin of the custom of giving *gelt*, and over time that custom was extended to children.

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*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**  
**Richard Horowitz**

**Tony Cavaliere**  
**Dick Rosen**



28 November 2024



We pray sincerely for America and the ideals of democracy and freedom that are here enshrined. May she be strong to withstand all the currents that assail her and all the forces of evil that would invade her sacred precincts. A tower of light to her own citizenry, may she cast a steady beam and light up all the dark areas of the world and show to a perplexed and straying humanity the path of freedom, of life and of peace.

Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein

## Temple Beth Elohim Board of Directors

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



**Rabbi Scott Weiner**

The rabbi is scheduled to lead *Shabbat* services on Friday, 22 November 2024, and a morning class on Saturday, 23 November 2024.

Arrangements for Rabbi Weiner are made possible through THE ALWYN O. GOLDSTEIN MEMORIAL SHABBAT FUND.

**T B E 1772 LEGACY GROUP**

Brenda & Benedict Rosen  
Richard Dimentstein  
Ruth & Herb Feinberg



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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



**BIRTHDAYS**

**NOVEMBER**

15 Debbie Hart  
22 Mike Specht  
28 Dyan Cohen

**DECEMBER**

16 Carol Willey  
17 Nancy Koppel  
20 Roberta Schwartz  
24 Steven Schwartz  
25 Jim Bennett



**ANNIVERSARIES**



**NOVEMBER**

2 Donna & Tom  
Llewellyn  
5 Dyan & Alex  
Cohen

**DECEMBER**

21 Debbi & Webster  
Jones



Let us pray for the restoration of health of

**SHANE FINKEL**

grandson of Carrol Sallas

## DONATIONS



**Jay Ard** to the General Fund

**Susan & Brian Berry** to the General Fund in memory of Bryan M. Schneider

**Joy & Seymour Birnbaum** to the General Fund in memory of Wolfie Rand, Frieda Birnbaum and Ben Richman

**Jody Blazer** to the Security Fund

**Randy & Tony Cavaliere** to the General Fund in memory of Nancy Cavaliere

**Joanne & Ronnie Craig** to the Security Fund

**Robert Garrison, Rosemarie Bell, Jacqueline Truland** to the General Fund

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

**Alan Gramet** to the General Fund in memory of Fred Gramet

**Rosalind & Louis Greenzweig** to the Security Fund

**Patti-Ann & Brian Kanterman** to the Cemetery Wall Fund and Security Fund in honor of Richard Dimentstein

**Marty Kleinrock & Adele Franzblau** to the Security Fund and General Fund

**Ariane & Craig Lieberman** to the General Fund in memory of Myrna Fishbein

**Men's Card Pool** to the General Fund

**Tish Richter** to the Security Fund

**Kathy & Ted Weiss** to the Security Fund

## WISDOM

Continued from p. 2

It wasn't until the 19<sup>th</sup> century that Jews started giving gifts to children at *Chanukah* (around the same time that marketers began encouraging the buying and exchanging of Christmas gifts). So, whatever your reason for exchanging gifts with loved ones at Chanukah, there is no Jewish law or written tradition that says you are required to do it, but, on the other hand, there's no law that says you're not allowed to buy gifts for those special people in your lives. *HAPPY CHANUKAH!*

SC

## *From the President*

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*gulab jamnun*, a milk-based ball of dough that is deep fried and then drenched in sugar syrup. The sweet treat is also consumed by non-Jewish Indians during other celebrations like *Diwali*.

Most Ashkenazi Jews place a *menorah* in the window to publicize the miracle of *Chanukah*. In **Morocco, Algeria** and other **North African communities**, it is customary to hang the *menorah* on a hook in the doorway beside the *mezuzah*. Putting the *menorah* near the *mezuzah* was thought to enhance the protection already offered by the *mezuzah*. If you look at menorahs made in North Africa, you will notice that many have a ring at the top, as well as a flat metal backing, so that the *menorah* could be safely hung.

Jews in Romania, as well as Austria and other central European communities, would scrape out potatoes, filling each potato space with oil and a wick to serve as the *menorah*. Rather than putting all eight out at once, each day they would add another potato. While the origin of this custom is unclear, it likely came about due to economic struggles.

The Jewish community of **Aleppo (Syria)**, which comprised mostly Sephardic Jews who had escaped the Inquisition, lit an extra *shamash* on each night of *Chanukah*. Several explanations exist – some say that the second shamash was meant to honor God and acknowledge the divine intervention that brought them to safety. Others say the custom was a nod toward the non-Jews of Aleppo, who welcomed them as refugees.

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## From the President

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Before mass immigration and the establishment of the State of Israel in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Jews lived in **Jerusalem** for centuries and followed the ruling that the *menorah's* lights needed to be placed outside the home for all to see. This decree originates in the Talmud.

The sages taught that it is a *mitzvah* to place the *Chanukah* lamp at the entrance to one's house on the outside, so that all can see it.

However, Jerusalem winters are often wet and windy, so the community began crafting aquarium-like glass boxes to protect their flames. Inside, Jerusalem Jews put small cups of olive oil and lit a wick to correspond with each night. Some of Jerusalem's oldest homes even have a shelf carved out of the home's exterior walls in which to place the glass boxes.

Today, many Israeli Jews have adopted this practice, although some will simply place a *chanukkiah* with candles inside the box, rather than using oil.

Jewish communities in **Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Morocco, Greece, and Yemen** celebrate another holiday during *Chanukkah*, know in Judeo-Arabic as Eid Al Bnat (or Chag HaBanot in Hebrew), which translates to the Festival of the Daughters.

Observed on *Rosh Chodesh Tevet* (which falls on the eighth night of *Chanukah*), the girls and women of the community refrain from work and gather to recall Jewish heroines, particularly Judith, the Jewish woman who lived during the time of the Maccabees and helped prevent the impending siege of Jerusalem by decapitating the invading Assyrian general.

*Chag HaBanot* festivities vary from community to community, but often include eating sweets and fried treats, dancing, visiting the synagogue to kiss the *Torah* scrolls and singing well into the night. Girls approaching *bat mitzvah* age, as well as women who were engaged, were also publicly celebrated during *Chag HaBanot*.

The region of **Avignon**, located in southern **France**, is renowned for its wineries. During the Saturday night that falls during *Chanukah*, after *Shabbat* ended, the Jews of Avignon open a new bottle of local wine in their homes and make a toast. Then, each family travels around their neighborhood to taste the wines chosen by their neighbors and to toast to the miracle of *Chanukah*.

It is a longstanding practice among **North African and Middle Eastern Jewish communities**, as well as **Chasidic Ashkenazi Jews**, that as long as the *menorah* is lit, women refrain from doing *melachot*, the types of work that are forbidden on *Shabbat* and holidays. While *Chanukah* is not a holiday that requires Jews to refrain from labor, this custom can be traced back to laws codified by both Ashkenazi and Sephardic leaders who ruled, pre-electricity, that the light of the *menorah* was not to be used for anything besides enjoying the holiday.

In some parts of **Morocco**, Jewish children spend the last day of *Chanukah* going from house to house to collect the leftover cotton wicks that Moroccan Jews used in place of candles. At sundown, the wicks are ignited to create the large bonfire, and each community gathers to sing, dance, and even leap over the fire, which was believed to bring good luck to the jumper, especially to women seeking a partner or struggling to conceive.

Hanging Menorah  
MORACCO



*The halakhah\* is to place the hanging menorah on the left so that the Chanukah lamp will be on the left and the mezuzah on the right. Then, one who enters the house will be surrounded by mitzvot.*

\* Jewish Law

Rav Shmuel from Difti



## Yahrzeits



### NOVEMBER

Tillie Drucker Gershman grandmother of Michele Bennett  
 1 Sophie Levkoff grandmother of Susan Berry  
 1 Ruby Levkoff Temple Beth Elohim Memorial  
 2 Sarah C. Weiss member Temple Beth Elohim  
 2 Bernard Goldman father of Eileen Kramer  
 3 Bella Gramet mother of Alan Gramet  
 5 Herman Gold member Temple Beth Elohim  
 7 Charles Zelesnick great grandfather of  
     Craig Lieberman  
 9 Beatrice B. Gershman mother of Michele Bennett  
 13 Edward Solomon son of Janet Solomon  
 13 Arnold H. Franzblau father of Adele Franzblau  
 14 Irving Snyder Temple Beth Elohim memorial  
 15 Joan Davidson sister of Michael Davidson  
 15 Anne L. Schneider mother of Debbie Smith  
 16 Charlotte B. Rosenfeld aunt of Michele Bennett  
 17 Arnold Kane Temple Beth Elohim memorial  
 18 David Giegerich brother of A J Giegerich  
 18 Kate Tiftickjian Johnston friend of Marty Kleinrock  
 18 Herbert Dimenstein father of Richard Dimenstein  
 19 Jerome Sallas husband of Carrol Sallas  
 22 Milton Levkoff uncle of Dick Rosen  
 25 Sanford Levkoff uncle of Susan Berry  
 26 Charles Chaplin member Temple Beth Elohim  
 28 Bernard Levine father of Nancy Koppel

### DECEMBER

6 Bari King Heiden first wife of Eric Heiden  
 10 Philip Lewenthal great grandfather of Susan Berry  
     and Debbie Smith  
 11 Albert M. Schneider grandfather of Susan Berry  
     and Debbie Smith  
 11 Jennie Lewenthal member Temple Beth Elohim  
 14 Lavene R. Gause father of Miriam Drucker  
 15 Sally Dube mother of Jana Hletko  
 16 Dick Charlton husband of Ruth Farb  
 18 David A. Cohen, Jr. father of Alex Cohen  
 20 Frances Gause mother of Miriam Drucker  
 21 Lois R. Levkoff aunt of Dick Rosen  
 22 Nettie Rosen mother of Marilyn Horowitz  
 23 Sarah Ross mother of Lynn Davidson  
 26 Fannie L. Schneider grand mother of Susan Berry  
     and Debbie Smith  
 27 Gertrude O. Abrams member Temple Beth Elohim  
 29 Meg Giegerich Irving sister of A J Giegerich  
 31 Arthur Giegerich father of A J Giegerich  
 31 Sandy Rasnake sister of Butch Miceli  
 31 Mickey Linado Temple Beth Elohim memorial  
 31 Morris Lieberman grandfather of Craiq Lieberman



Any corrections or additions please contact Richard Dimenstein [rdimenstein@gmail.com](mailto:rdimenstein@gmail.com) or at [info.bethelohim@gmail.com](mailto:info.bethelohim@gmail.com) .  
 Names are read every Friday night for *yahrzeits* in the upcoming week.

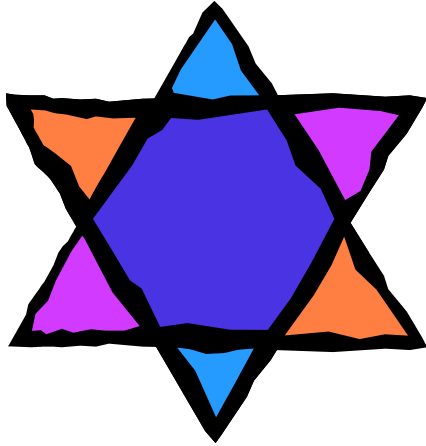
### *Beth Elohim Cemetery*

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.

### *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.



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## ***SHALOM***

*A blend of faith and friendship for over 100 years*

**Temple Beth Elohim**

**P. O. Box 571**

**Georgetown, SC 29442**

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### **Committee Members**

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Membership/Publicity Chair: Joy Birnbaum  
Cemetery Chair: Seymour Birnbaum  
Communications: Andy Friedman  
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Photography: Randy Cavaliere (Joy Birnbaum)