

Temple Beth Elohim

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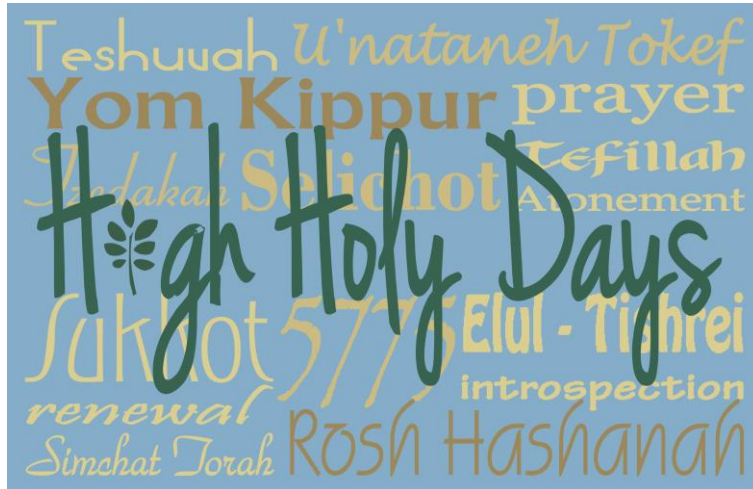
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The Rising Star

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How Do Jewish Scholars View the Coronavirus Outbreak?

as explained by Rabbi Sam Bregman, Founder of the Jewish Executive Learning Network



President Richard

Torah scholars generally describe massive economic collapses, the Holocaust, tsunamis, and the coronavirus pandemic as “contractions” leading up to the Messianic era, believed to be no later than the year 6000 on the Jewish calendar, which is currently in year 5782.

The *Talmud* compares this to a woman who is close to giving birth, and the contractions she ex-

periences as she gets closer to delivering the child, both the number and strength of her contractions increase.

Rabbi Sam also pointed out that many Jewish scholars are discussing the parallels between the current outbreak and the holiday of Passover, which looks back on Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt.

Some scholars have noted that the ‘gods’ of ancient Egypt came to a halt and lost their power during the plagues. Similar to the plague of darkness, where everyone was stuck in their homes and frozen in place, forced to look at their own deeds and missteps. Today, many are given the chance to use this time to look in the mirror.

“If you'd ask me to pinpoint one area that the religious Jewish communities are trying to strengthen themselves in, as a response to coronavirus, I would say it's the *mitzvah* or commandment, to refrain from gossip and slander,” Bregman said. “Nobody in the

Jewish religious community is saying, ‘God is causing coronavirus in the world so people will go into their homes and learn to quit gossiping.’”

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Debbie Hart

Rosh HaShanah

Tickets

By Debbie Hart

I'm finishing up my seventh decade on earth and finally, yes finally, I do not have to worry about securing High Holy Day tickets. Why now after all these years? Have I finally arrived? Yes. Having recently moved to Pawleys Island, I discovered Temple Beth Elohim in Georgetown, SC.

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Wisdom From Afar....

Suzan Cohen



Ritual Scholar
Suzan

One of the joys of writing this column is that it's always an opportunity to learn something new. And as we prepare for the coming High Holy Days, I want to share a minor holiday that I had never known about before, and how it is observed

during the High Holy Days It is easily overlooked. *Tzam Gedaliah* (Fast of Gedaliah) is an annual fast day that commemorates the assassination of Gedaliah Ben Achikam, the Governor of Israel during the days of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylonia. As a result of Gedaliah's death, the final vestiges of Judean autonomy after the Babylonian conquest were destroyed, many thousands of Jews were slain, and the remaining Jews were driven into final exile.

The fast is observed from daybreak till the stars appear at night on the day immediately following *Rosh HaShanah*, the third of *Tishrei*, which this year is Monday, 6 September. At evening services, the prayer *Anenu* is included in the repetition of the *Shachrit Amidah*. A *Torah* scroll is withdrawn from the ark, the Thirteen Divine Attributes are recited, and the *parshah Vayechal* (Exodus 32:14 and 34:1-10) are read from the *Torah*.

The observance, then, is fairly simple and straightforward. We refrain from eating for a number of hours and follow up with some special prayers and *Torah* readings. What is more interesting to me, however, is the "back story" of the holiday, the little piece of history that also can get lost in the larger story of the Jewish people. And the story of *Tzam Gedaliah* is as follows:

When Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, he killed or exiled most of its inhabitants, but an impoverished remnant of the people remained in the land. After a time, he appointed Gedaliah as their governor of the now-Babylonian province of Yehud. The surviving Jews could stay in Judea as long as they were peaceful and sent taxes to Babylon. Resisting corruption, Gedaliah promoted the reclamation and cultivation of the land as the way to heal his community. With tax revenue raised through the prosperity of the residents, Judean security was maintained. Hearing of his success, many Jews who had fled to Moab, Ammon, Edom, and other neighboring lands began to return to Judah.

Baalis, King of Ammon, however, was hostile and envious of the Judean remnant and sent a Judean, Ishmael Ben Netaniah, who was descended from the

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Scholars View the Coronavirus

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"However, the traditional *Torah* scholars have been reminding their congregations, 'Hey, at a time like this it would be a good idea for all of us to redouble our efforts to take care with our power of speech. We need to be as careful with what comes out of our mouths, as we are with what goes in our mouths.'"



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- 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



ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Kathryn & David Kossove
- 13 Edwina & Andy Friedman
- 16 Lynn & Michael Davidson
- 17 Ariane & Craig Lieberman

OCTOBER

- 14 Adele Franzblau & Marty Kleinrock



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 Dr. Eric & Rosa Lee Heiden



Richard Horowitz Donna & Tom Llewellyn Dick Rosen

Wisdom From Afar....

[continued from p. 2]

royal family of Judea to assassinate Gedaliah. In the seventh month (*Tishrei*), Ishmael led a group of Jews to the town of Mitzpah, where they were cordially received. Gedaliah had been warned of his guests' murderous intent but refused to believe his informants in the belief that their report was mere slander. At dinner that evening, Ishmael and his cohorts murdered Gedaliah, together with most of the Jews who had joined him and numbers of Babylonians whom Nebuchadnezzar had left with Gedaliah. The remaining Jews feared the vengeance of Nebuchadnezzar (in view of the fact that the king's chosen ruler, Gedaliah, had been killed by a Jew) and fled to Egypt. The surviving remnant of Jews was thus dispersed, and the land remained desolated for more than 100 years, until the Persians defeated the Babylonians and allowed Jews to return to their homeland.

Hundreds of years later, the Talmudic sages established a dawn-to-dark fast to mourn Gedaliah's death and its repercussions. Although some sources place Gedaliah's death on *Rosh HaShanah*, the sages set the fast day to follow immediately after since fasts are not permitted on a holiday other than *Yom Kippur*.

But why do we have a fast day at all for this one person whose time of leadership was so brief? In the totality of

Jewish history, with its many calamities and martyrs, why did the sages choose to commemorate this one man? Perhaps, it's because the story of Gedaliah reminds us that, while throughout history we have often suffered at the hands of others, the worst damage can come when we battle each other. Enmity among Jews, lure of false protectors, and distancing from Israel were main factors contributing to the destruction of the first Temple. These elements also led to the calamitous events surrounding Gedaliah's assassination just a few years later.

They were also in play during the Maccabean Wars of the second century BCE, and the sages had clearly felt their catastrophic impact leading to the Roman destruction of the second Temple. Thus, adding a fast day between *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*, a period of private and communal reflection and self-examination, may have been a way for the sages to urge us to learn from the past. Bad things can come from fighting among ourselves which can happen in any generation.

Whether you fast or not, or participate in any formal observance of the day, take a look at the Gedaliah story. It deserves our thoughts as we start the New Year

Rosh HaShanah Tickets

[continued from p. 1]

As I reflect on all the places I have worshipped, it reminds me of the struggles I encountered trying to get a ticket for the High Holy Days, especially when I was alone. I started questioning myself. Do I really have to attend services in order to be a good Jew? What are the responsibilities of being part of a Jewish community? If I'm by myself, how do I honor the High Holy days? One question led to another.

When I was growing up, I spent the Jewish holidays with my parents and actually had my own Junior ticket. We attended a beautiful Reform temple that was a converted mansion, located a few blocks from the beach in Glen Cove, NY. After college, I lived in Ann Arbor, then Chicago, where many of my friends were Jewish and I went to temple with them occasionally. When the holidays came around, my friends sometimes had extra tickets but most times I had to buy my own. Either way, tickets were always an issue. I always considered the High Holy Days a time to reflect, share a holiday meal with family or friends and buy a New Year's outfit. Unfortunately, it also became a stressful time because of the ticket pursuit.

Eventually, I moved back to Boston to be close to my brother and near my parents in New York. We lived in Brookline where there was a fairly large Jewish community. Getting a bowl of chicken soup was easy, but getting tickets was still a hassle. Sometimes we went to Hillel at Tufts and paid \$350 for tickets, or *Chabad* in Wellesley, \$100, or Boston University at Huntington Theater, \$150, and free tickets when we went to my parents' temple. Tickets always seemed to be an issue. Before my mom passed away, we paid \$360 to attend the temple across from her Senior Community.

In 2020 I joined Temple Beth Elohim. I was thrilled that they didn't require tickets for the High Holy Days. Since I joined during the Pandemic, I ZOOMed with the temple community. This year, I plan to attend the High Holy Days services in person, with my new temple family. No tickets required. Exhale!

L'Shana Tova!

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Janet Solomon to the General Fund in memory of Herbert Solomon and Seymour Solomon

Carol & Robert Willey to the General Fund



RENEW – JOIN - DONATE AT TEMPLE WEBSITE



If you haven't looked at our website recently, you don't know that there have been some changes!

1. www.templebethelohim.net is a certified, secure website. You can safely use Pay Pal or your credit card.
2. You can JOIN or RENEW your membership with a few clicks; if you prefer, you can still download and print the membership forms and mail a check to us.
3. You can make a DONATION to the General Fund, Temple Security or Other. You can designate Other for *Tzedakah*, or in memory of (*Yahrzeit*), in honor of, for a birthday or anniversary.

The Temple Beth Elohim website and Facebook page provide information about weekly *Shabbat* services, holidays, events, and important announcements.

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

SHANE FINKEL

*grandson of
Carrol Sallas*

T B E 1772 LEGACY GROUP

Brenda & Benedict Rosen

Richard Dimentstein





Yahrzeits



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8 Herbert Solomon	husband of Janet Solomon
9 Bryan Schneider	brother of Susan Berry
11 Charles Libros	cousin of Art Kaufman
11 Larry Poaster	brother of Tish Richter
11 Sheldon Gershman	father of Michele Bemmett
15 George Lichtenstein	uncle of Michele Bennett
19 Sydney Abrams	member Temple Beth Elohim
20 Sadye Danzig	member Temple Beth Elohim
24 Meyer Cornis	uncle of Ruth Farb
25 George Levkoff	grandfather of Dick Rosen
27 Toba Vallens Farb	mother of Ruth Farb
29 Jack Levkoff	cousin of Dick Rosen

OCTOBER

1 Selma S. Weiss	mother of Noreen Davis
3 Helen Friedman	stepmother of Andy Friedman
7 Judy Rosen	sister of Marilyn Horowitz
7 Lazarus Levkoff	grandfather of Susan Berry
9 Cecil W. Schneider	father of Debbie Smith



OCTOBER

10 Clark Gottlieb	past president Temple Beth Elohim
10 Minnie F. Ringel	member Temple Beth Elohim
11 Ida E. Schanzer Simon	mother of Ruth Feinberg
11 Alexander Apfel	father of Cindy Danzek
12 Abraham Fogel	member Temple Beth Elohim
14 Wolfie Rand	father of Joy Birnbaum
17 Hirsch Schneider	great uncle of Susan Berry
	great grandfather of Debbie Smith
18 Frieda Birnbaum	mother of Seymour Birnbaum
19 Myrna Fishbein	aunt of Ariane Lieberman
24 Philip Hurwitz	member Temple Beth Elohim
24 Julius Fogel	member Temple Beth Elohim
24 Theresa Block Baruch	member Temple Beth Elohim
30 Meyer Danzig	member Temple Beth Elohim
31 Frances Goldstein	stepmother of Roz Greenspon



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

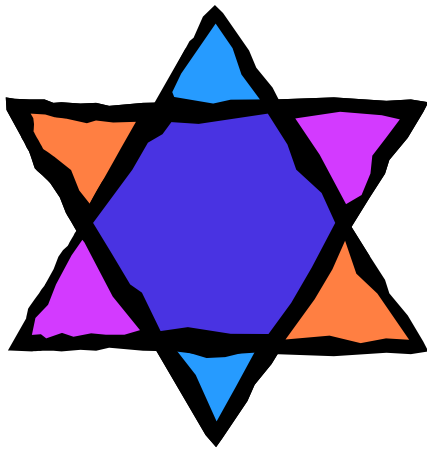
New Memorial Plaques

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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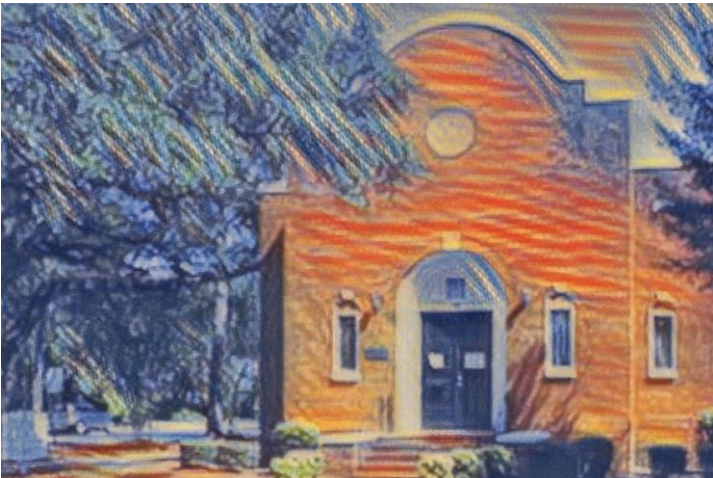
SHALOM

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