

# Temple Beth Elohim

A blend of faith and friendship for over 115 years

Volume 19 Issue 3  
January/February 2022  
Tevet/Shevat/Adar I (5782)

Visit our website: [www.templebethelohim.net](http://www.templebethelohim.net)

# The Rising Star

P.O. Box 571 Georgetown, SC 29442

843 325-0389

[membership.tbe@gmail.com](mailto:membership.tbe@gmail.com)



VP Joy Birnbaum assists Reb Cantor Lisa at *Chanukah/Shabbat* service.



*Chanukah/Shabbat* at Temple Beth Elohim  
10 December 2021



Reb Cantor Lisa Levine

## From the President



President Richard

The Executive Board and Trustees of Temple Beth Elohim formed a search committee with the goal of finding a rabbi to conduct *Shabbat* services. We knew that we could not afford a full-time leader, so guidelines had to be established. Perhaps we could offer a schedule once a month or once every

other month. After we considered that, we had to recognize other expenses. In addition to a salary, we had to consider the costs of travel, lodging and meals. The committee's research began.

There were a few viable leads. Like so many other aspects of life today, COVID-19 interrupted the whole process. It delayed the possibility of meeting face to face or even having a demonstration service. The search committee did not allow this to discourage their efforts.

Last month the stars aligned, and the committee was introduced to **Lisa Levine** of Baltimore, Maryland. She is a cantor, a rabbi, an instrumental musician, and a yoga instructor. The negotiation process was able to proceed.

Reb Cantor Lisa agreed to meet our members by leading the *Shabbat/Chanukah* on Friday, 10 December 2021. The next morning, she led a discussion about

*Chanukah* through lecture and song. You may view this event on YouTube [<https://youtu.be/xr-cYH9bHDo>].

Reb Cantor Lisa will be leading services on 21 January 2022 and will be giving an afternoon *Havdallah* service on Saturday, 22 January 2022 at 4:00 p.m. [see p. 3 – top]. She will be leading *Shabbat* services on the third Friday of each month. On the third Saturday of each month, she will head a discussion, teach a lesson or give a concert. That part is up to the will of the members. We are looking forward to this new phase of our temple's life.

In addition to this news, there is a bit more. **Robin Shuler** has expressed an interest in returning to our *bima* on a regular basis. She has committed to conducting the *Shabbat* service on Friday, 3 June 2021 (her father's birthday). We hope to be able to schedule her regularly after the summer.

Another upcoming event will be VIOLINS OF HOPE. This is an event that has been traveling around the world and will be coming to Myrtle Beach in April [see article on p. 5]. There will be an exhibit and a concert using these instruments. Some were found, some donated. They were collected during and after the holocaust and were repaired/restored/improved by Amnon Weinstein, an Israeli master violin maker.

Wishing you and yours a safe, happy, and healthy New Year. **RAD**

# Wisdom From Afar....

Suzan Cohen



Ritual Scholar  
Suzan

*Tu BiShvat* is a minor holiday occurring on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month of *Shevat* (16-17 January 2022). It deserves more attention than we usually give it. Also called *Rosh HaShanah La'ilanot* (literally 'New Year of

Trees') *Tu BiShvat* is a uniquely life-affirming observance. It has its roots in a verse in the *Torah* (Leviticus 19:23) that forbids eating the fruit of trees produced during the first three years after they are planted. *Tu BiShvat* is the cut-off date in the Hebrew calendar for calculating the age of a fruit-bearing tree – fruit that ripens on a three-year tree before *Tu BiShvat* is forbidden to eat, while fruit ripening on or after *Tu BiShvat* of the tree's third year is permitted.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the kabbalist, Rabbi Yitzchak Luria of Safed, and his disciples instituted a *Tu BiShvat seder* in which the fruits and trees of the Land of Israel were given symbolic meaning. The main idea was that eating ten specific fruits and drinking four cups of wine in a specific order while reciting the appropriate blessings would bring human beings, and the world, closer to spiritual perfection. In Israel, the kabbalistic *Tu BiShvat seder* has been revived, and is now celebrated by many Jews, religious and secular. Special *haggadot* have been written for this purpose.

On *Tu BiShvat* 1890, Rabbi Ze'ev Yavetz, one of the founders of the *Mizrachi* Movement, took his students

to plant trees in the agricultural colony of Zichron Taakov. This custom was adopted in 1908 by the Jewish Teachers Union and later by the Jewish National Fund, established in 1901, to oversee land reclamation and afforestation of the Land of Israel. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Jewish National Fund devoted the day to planting eucalyptus trees to stop a plague of malaria in the Hula Valley.

Today, *Tu BiShvat* is considered the Israeli Arbor Day and it is often referred to by that name in international media. Ecological organizations in Israel and the diaspora have adopted the holiday to further environmental-awareness programs. The Jewish National Fund schedules major tree-planting events in large forests every *TuBiShvat*. Over a million Israelis take part in the Jewish National Fund's *Tu BiShvat* tree-planting activities.

For Jews in America, the environmental message of *Tu BiShvat* is keenly important. With the very real threat of global warming and its associated climate change, many of us taking small steps every day to protect and nurture the earth can collectively make a big difference. We can donate to the Arbor Day Foundation to support the planting of trees here and around the world (and even buy our own trees). We also can recycle, conserve water as much as possible, and reduce our use of electricity as much as we can. And we can let our leaders know that we're going to hold them accountable for the measures they take (or don't take) to help protect the planet. After all, for life on Earth, there is no Plan B; we have nowhere to live but here; we must keep it livable.



## Temple Beth Elohim Board of Directors

**President: Richard Dimentstein**

(rdimentstein@gmail.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),

**Ariane Lieberman** (rundoc13@gmail.com) **Shirley**

**Giegerich** (shirleygiegerich@gmail.com), **Andy**

**Friedman** (andy.friedman@hotmail.com), **Craig**

**Lieberman** ([heartdocks@aol.com](mailto:heartdocks@aol.com)); **Seymour**

**Birnbaum** ([joyandsey@ethanrand.com](mailto:joyandsey@ethanrand.com))

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)

**Temple Beth Elohim**  
Georgetown, SC



**\*JOSPEL SHABBAT**  
FRI JAN 21st  
7:30 PM  
**HEALING HAVDALAH POTLUCK**  
SAT JAN 22nd  
4:00 PM



With Reb Cantor  
Lisa Levine



RSVP by Jan 17  
Appetizer-Main Course-Dessert  
Joyandseymour@gmail.com

*\*Jospel is Jewish Gospel style*

## Tree of Life

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_



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



### BIRTHDAYS

#### JANUARY

4 Ruth Farb

#### FEBRUARY

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

### ANNIVERSARIES



#### JANUARY

17 Ruth Farb &  
Dick Charlton  
29 Nancy & Gary  
Koppel

#### FEBRUARY

2 Brenda & Dick  
Rosen  
25 Marilyn & Richard  
Horowitz



Let us pray for the restoration of health of  
**SHANE FINKEL**  
grandson of Carrol Sallas



## Judaism in Our Stories



Debbie Hart

Recently, I received a journal as a gift from someone very special to me. The gift also marked a significant birthday, so I decided to begin my story. There were many places I could begin and many tales I wanted to chronicle. I began by asking myself, "Is this going to be the story of my life, or a more contemplative piece on how I ended up here today?" My thought process led me to realize that Judaism has played a fundamental role in my life not just in chronological events, but in the person who I am today. So, let us begin...

I was born at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Hospital in New York City and lived in the Bronx for six years. We moved to Long Island where I spent the rest of my childhood. Need I say more about the Jewish influences? My family belonged to a Reform Temple where I attended religious school and youth group. I never had a *Bat Mitzvah*, because when I turned 13 in 1964, this ceremony was almost exclusively for boys. I started college in Boston and moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan upon graduation. On my drive to Ann Arbor, I had my first encounter with antisemitism. It was at a gasoline station, and I realized, "I was not in New York anymore." It was scary and only the beginning of many confrontations with human intolerance. I moved to Chicago and found a niche there. I went to services and celebrated the Jewish holidays with friends' families. I even married a Jewish pharmacist which delighted my mother but after a year, not me. I traveled to Israel in my thirties in "hippie fashion" and, now in my seventies, really want to go back in first class style. I moved back to Boston and tried to keep up with basic Jewish ceremonies. I had *seders*, *Chanukah* parties and *Rosh HaShanah* dinners at my home for my small family remaining in Boston. I married again to a wonderful Christian man in a traditional Jewish wedding ceremony, *chuppah* and all. A year ago, we moved to Pawleys Island, and I found Temple Beth Elohim. Never in my life have I gone to temple so much!

Are these experiences what make me Jewish? Or is it what I do because I **am** Jewish? And what kind of a Jew do I feel I have grown into? Lastly, what part does Judaism play in my story?

There are many additional life experiences besides my specific Jewish occasions. I was a daughter, am a wife, a mother, a sister, a friend, a professional and a contributing member to my different communities. And

always a Jew. My Judaism has contributed to how I managed all these roles.

My parents taught me to be charitable and to strive for excellence. My grandmother was very kind and taught me how to make gefilte fish and other Jewish delicacies. She liked EVERYONE. My husband is my fellow traveler in this second part of my life. He is always my safety net. My siblings give me unconditional love and support. Friends keep me in check. Being a mother has shown me that I need to look at the world through others' eyes to give good advice and make sound decisions. My pets have always been a joy and they bring me closer to the earth. Lastly, I have always felt the responsibility to contribute to my community.

I did some research and found some clarifications that made sense for my Jewish story. They are:

- In Judaism, actions are far more important than beliefs.
- The most important teaching and tenet of Judaism is that there is one God, incorporeal and eternal, who wants all people to do what is just and merciful. All people are created in the image of God and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Ultimately, to be Jewish is to be a member of a culture, a religion, and a peoplehood. Jews are unique in that they are one of the few, if only, "people" in the world that encompass both a religious, cultural and national aspect.

I have always been proud of my Jewish heritage and am glad that I have been able to incorporate my culture and beliefs in my life.

Thanks for reading a little of my story. Now what about yours?

*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**

**Dick Rosen**



# DONATIONS



**Michele & Jim Bennett** to the General Fund  
**Noreen Davis & Alan Gramet** to the General Fund in memory of Bella Gramet  
**Richard Dimentstein** to the General Fund in memory of Herbert Dimentstein  
**Miriam & Louis Drucker** to the General Fund in memory of Frances & Lavene Gause  
**Ruth & Herb Feinberg** to the General Fund  
**Shirley & AJ Giegerich** to the General Fund in memory of Arthur Giegerich and Meg Irving  
**Roz Greenspon** to The Alwyn O. Goldstein Memorial Shabbat Services Fund  
**Ariane & Craig Lieberman** to the General Fund in memory of Charles Zelesnick and Morris Lieberman  
**Carrol Sallas** to the General Fund in memory of Jerome Salles

## The Violins of Hope

Violins of Hope SC ([www.violinsofhopeSC.org](http://www.violinsofhopeSC.org)). During the months of April / May 2022, 60 violins that survived the Holocaust of WWII and restored by Luthiers in Israel will arrive in SC for Violins of Hope SC. The event will be a month long, during which we will be featuring the violins in a series of large-scale concerts in some of SC's largest concert venues, exhibit the violins in museums, schools, and libraries, and arrange educational events in schools, universities, community and worship centers. We will be featuring speakers who will share heroic stories from the holocaust era and local musicians will play the violins.

Another collaborator is Varna International and its Songs of Life production, which tells the story of the rescue of all Bulgaria's Jews during the Holocaust. The Songs of Life "A Melancholy Beauty" oratorio depicts the relatively unknown story of the largest rescue from the Nazi death camps - all 49,000 of Bulgaria's Jews were rescued. During Violins of Hope SC, local orchestras will play the Songs of Life oratorio, and other pieces that are being written especially for the event by local composers, using the restored Violins of Hope.

**These concerts will be held in Myrtle Beach, Charleston, Greenville, and Columbia and will include over 200 performers and a symphony orchestra playing the Violins of Hope. The opening concert will be held in Myrtle Beach on April 24, 2022, at the Performing Arts Center at Myrtle Beach High School.**

We will have the violins on display along with "The Auschwitz Album Revisited", a collection of original oil paintings at the Myrtle Beach Train Depot on Saturday, April 23rd from 10am to 5pm and Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm.

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ils5JEjUsgI> Facebook: Violins of Hope South Carolina



THE VIOLINS OF HOPE

[see above article and President's Message – p. 1]

## T B E 1772 LEGACY GROUP

Brenda & Benedict Rosen

Richard Dimentstein





## Yahrzeits



### JANUARY

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Jodi-Ann Wollman    | Temple Beth Elohim Memorial    |
| 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 Carol Abrams        | member Temple Beth Elohim      |
| 8 Eli Fishbein        | uncle of Ariane Lieberman      |
| 12 Harry Rosen        | grandfather of Dick Rosen      |
| 15 Cerna Comis        | 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 Lumiansky  | grandfather of Debbie Smith    |
| 26 Bonnie Linado      | member Temple Beth Elohim      |
| 26 Evelyn Nitzberg    | Temple Beth Elohim Memorial    |
| 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 of Eric Heiden   |
| 30 Nettie Franzblau   | grandmother of Adele Franzblau |
| 31 Reb Debbie 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 Ariane Lieberman<br>and Myla Specht |
| 7 Ida L. Sisser           | member Temple Beth Elohim                          |
| 8 Barnet Levine           | father of Carrol Sallas                            |
| 8 Jacob Sisser            | member Temple Beth Elohim                          |
| 8 Ruth Wollman            | Temple Beth Elohim Memorial                        |
| 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        | mother of Richard Horowitz<br>and Roberta Schwartz |
| 12 Lillian Apfel          | mother of Cindy Danzek                             |
| 13 Harold Schneider       | uncle of Susan Berry                               |
| 16 Blossom Rand           | mother of Joy Birnbaum                             |
| 16 Jules Nitzberg         | Temple Beth Elohim Memorial                        |
| 17 Ruth Ader              | mother of Shirley Giegerich                        |
| 21 Edward Wollman         | Temple Beth Elohim Memorial                        |
| 22 J J Heiden             | father of Eric Heiden                              |
| 23 Gloria Richman         | Temple Beth Elohim Memorial                        |
| 26 Ida E. Danzig          | member Temple Beth Elohim                          |



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

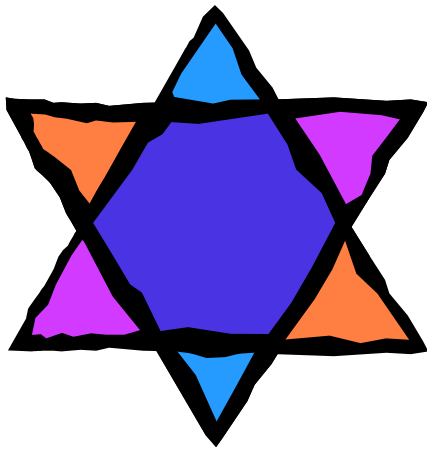
### *New Memorial Plaques*

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.



First Class  
Postage

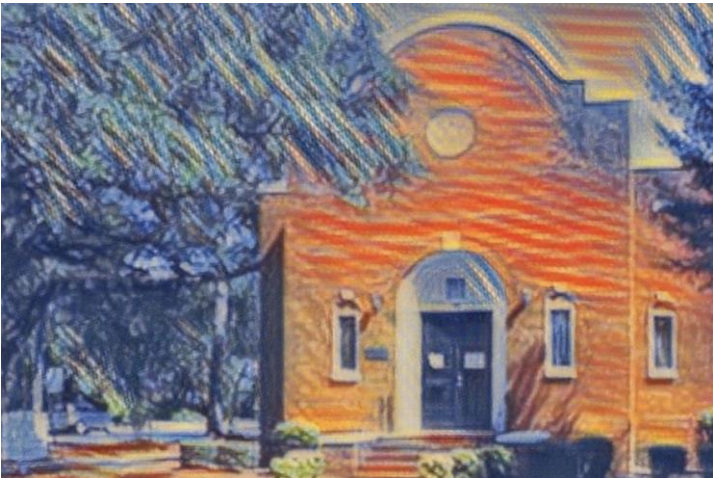
# ***SHALOM***

*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](http://www.templebethelohim.net)): Joy Birnbaum  
Photography: Rosa Lee & Eric Heiden