

Temple Beth Elohim

A blend of faith and friendship for over 115 years

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Volume 20 Issue 1
September/October 2022
Elul (5782)/Tishrei/Cheshvan (5783)

The Rising Star

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From the President



President Richard

On Saturday morning, Rabbi Scott Wiener devoted his lesson to discussing the last month on the Hebrew calendar, *Elul*. When talking about any aspect of the calendar, it often leads to reviewing the annual festivals and celebrations that lead up to the topic at hand. At first glance, *Elul* is an uneventful month. The first day is marked *Rosh HaShanah La Behemot*, the day for tithing animals. It is the “April 15th” of that culture. Other than four *Shabbats*, the next 28 days are blank. However, 1 *Elul* makes us aware that *Rosh HaShanah* is only thirty days away and *Elul* is the time to make preparations.

This year, we will be using new prayer books during our High Holiday services. We received a generous gift of *Mishkan Hanefesh* from temple members Nancy & Gary Koppel. I and my fellow lay leaders are looking forward to initiating these services.

Those of us who are leading would like to call upon individual members of the congregation to join us on the *bimah* during our service as an *Aliyah*. We will be sending out a notice and asking for a response. In the meantime, please consider participating in these services and assisting the leadership.

L'Shanah Tovah!

SECURITY ISSUES

Safety and security are a priority among the members of the Board and their committees. We all owe gratitude to Michele Gershman Bennett, Seymour Birnbaum and Craig Lieberman for their tireless research and labor. It is through their efforts that we have a police presence at every service and temple event and a cordial relationship with the Georgetown Police Department. It is they who brought in Captain Marc Smith of the Georgetown Fire Department to draw up a safety plan for an emergency. Because of them we have an ever-improving security system. They are helping to address the problem of the distribution of antisemitic publicity in our area. I appreciate all the effort they are putting in for our benefit.

Wisdom From Afar....

Suzan Cohen



Ritual Scholar
Suzan

One of the joys of writing this column is that, while noodling through many sources seeking inspiration, I never fail to learn something new. This month is no exception: Did you know that there is an established ritual for a *Rosh HaShanah seder*? It was

news to me, although its origins date back to the *Talmud*. Those of us of Ashkenazic ancestry can be forgiven our ignorance, as the ritual is celebrated primarily by families of Sephardic and Mizrahi origin.

Like the Passover *seder*, the *Rosh HaShanah seder* feature *simanim* (symbolic foods + corresponding blessings) that, either alone or as the featured ingredient of a tasty dish, symbolizes a good wish for the coming year (see photo p. 5). While the specific foods may vary from one community to the next, the following *simanim* are typical:

- Dates – A wish for peace and meaningful

relationships

- Pomegranates - A wish for good deeds
- Rubia (string beans or sesame seeds) - A wish for prosperity and sharing
- Karti (leeks or scallions) – A wish for friends and community
- Silka (Beets or beetroot leaves) – A wish for freedom and growth
- Kara (pumpkin or gourd) – A wish to count our blessings
- Gezer (carrots) – A wish for positive judgment
- Fish – A wish for fertility and growth
- Rosh (a head of a fish, lamb or lettuce) – A wish for leadership
- Apples dipped in honey – A wish for a sweet year

For more information about how the foods listed above have come to symbolize their respective wishes, see the booklet produced by the Schusterman Family Foundation: *Haggadah for*

continued on p. 3 [WISDOM]

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



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. If you need a user name and password, contact Andy Friedman, andy.friedman@hotmail.com

WISDOM

Continued from p. 2 [WISDOM FROM AFAR]

Rosh HaShanah Seder (<https://www.schusterman.org/sites/default/files/Haggadah%20English%201.pdf>).

The main difference between the *Rosh HaShanah seder* and the *Passover seder* is that the *Rosh HaShanah seders* I looked at lack the kind of narrative that is the core of the *Passover seder*. The *Rosh*

HaShanah Haggadah doesn't tell the big story – that of the creation of the world that is the necessary prequel to the story that happens in Exodus. Recalling the story of the creation will help us to remember what a unique blessing we have been given and of our current and ongoing obligation to be good stewards of the extraordinary gift.

se



Let us pray for the restoration of health of

SHANE FINKEL

grandson of Carrol Sallas

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Thanks for your support.

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BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Edwina Friedman
- 15 Richard Dimentstein
- 16 Carrol Sallas
- 19 Seymour Birnbaum
- 20 Andy Friedman

OCTOBER

- 2 Tony Caraliere
- 2 Gary Friedman
- 3 Louis Greenzweig
- 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



DONATIONS



Gerald Berkman to the General Fund in memory of Arlyne Berkman
Michele Gershman & James Bennett to the General Fund
Jill & Alan DeMarchi to the General Fund
Richard Dimentstein to the General Fund and in memory of Edna Dimentstein
Shirley & AJ Giegerich to the General Fund in memory of Albert Ader
Pam & George Gross to the General Fund
Deborah Hart to the General Fund
Kathryn & David Kossove to the General Fund
Ariane & Craig Lieberman to the General Fund in memory of Rae Zelesnick, Malva Ulrich, Rose Ulrich, Tillie Lieberman and Sonia Kolsky
Dan Mathless to the General Fund
Tish Richter to the General Fund in memory of Allen Poaster
Benedict Rosen to the General Fund and in memory of Dora Rosen and Sallie Lewenthal
Carrol Sallas to the General Fund in memory of Mary Levine
Carol & Robert Willey to the General Fund

5783 – *High Holy Days* – 2022

Friday, 23 Sept. 2022, 5:30 pm – **Slichot**

Sunday, 25 Sept. 2022, 7:30 pm –
Erev Rosh HaShanah

Leader: Michele Gershman Bennett
TBE Board Sponsored *Oneg* following service

Monday, 26 Sept. 2022, 11:00 am –
Rosh HaShanah

Leaders: Andy Friedman and Richard Dimentstein
Haftarah: Michael Davidson
Shofar: Louis Drucker
Tashlich immediately following service

Tuesday, 4 Oct. 2022, 7:30 pm – **Kol Nidre**
Leaders: Joy & Seymour Birnbaum
Kol Nidre Chant: Dr. Patty Edwards

Wednesday, 5 October 2022, 11:00 am –
Yom Kippur
Leaders: Andy Friedman and Richard Dimentstein
Haftarah: Michael Davidson

Wednesday, 5 October 2022, 4:00 pm –
Yom Kippur
Yizkor and Concluding Services
Leader: Ariane Lieberman
Shofar: Louis Drucker
Break-the-Fast [*Reservations necessary*]



Rabbi Scott Weiner
to return to T B E

The rabbi has agreed to allow us to schedule him for another *Shabbat* service and morning class.
Dates TO BE ANNOUNCED

Arrangements for Rabbi Weiner are made possible through the ALWYN O. GOLDSTEIN MEMORIAL *SHABBAT* SERVICES FUND.

T B E 1772 LEGACY GROUP

Brenda & Benedict Rosen
Richard Dimentstein



Sukkot

by Debbie Hart

The months of September and October are quickly approaching. These months are filled with many Jewish holidays. Five days after *Yom Kippur*, October 10-16, we celebrate the holiday of *Sukkot*, one of Judaism's three central pilgrimage festivals.

Celebrating *Sukkot* gives people an opportunity to slow down and reconnect with the natural world. Every year on the 15th of the Hebrew month of *Tishrei*, Jews celebrate *Sukkot*, which is also known as the Feast of Tabernacles or the Festival of Booths. It goes on for 7 days, just like God commanded in the *Torah*. *Sukkot* commemorates the 40 years the Jewish people spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land after escaping slavery in Egypt. Today, the *sukkah* is a reminder that only God creates a real sense of security and protection. "You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt." – Leviticus 23:42-43.

Today, for *Sukkot*, many Jewish people build a *sukkah* in their garden or outside their residence. The *sukkah* must consist of two and a half walls and a roof made of branches and leaves. It is important that you can still see the sky when inside the *sukkah*. The *sukkah* is a sign to open one's heart at this season. Just as its roof opens to the sky, so too, may those celebrating *Sukkot* be open to the stranger and the guest whom they do not see every day.

During the 7 days of *Sukkot*, observant Jews live or at least eat their meals in their *sukkah*. After experiencing meals and time in the *sukkah*, they can return to their normal lives with a new appreciation.

I believe that the reason and meaning of the celebration of *Sukkot* is just as relevant today as it was in the time of the exodus from Egypt. We need to learn to appreciate our earth and the harvest that it has provided. We need to try to be more optimistic than pessimistic as we enjoy nature. We need to smile more. It is truly the time to rejoice in the "fruits" of our labor!

The *Sukkah* reminds us that our existence is fragile and helps us to treasure the joyous moments of life. Its outdoor location helps us focus on the beauty of the world in which we live.

The *lulav* and *etrog* (see illustration on p. 2) are two of four species of plants that are held together and waved during *Sukkot*. The *lulav* is a palm branch which is joined with myrtle and willow branches, and the *etrog* is a citron fruit that is bumpy and resembles a lemon. With these in hand, one recites a blessing and waves the *lulav* and *etrog* in six directions (east, south, west, north, up, and down) each day of the *Sukkot* holiday, symbolizing Divine presence everywhere.

Mark your calendar for October 14 and remember to come to Temple. You'll get a chance to wave our *etrog* and *lulav*.

My personal commitment this *Sukkot* is to strengthen the bonds of my friendships. I will provide *tzedakah* and food for people in my community. I know I will look up at the sky and reflect on how fortunate I am to have and share in Jewish traditions and thank God for helping me to have such a wonderful life.

YOM TOV...HAPPY SUKKOT

DH

Rosh HaShanah Seder Challah



Sukkah





Yahrzeits



SEPTEMBER

- 8 Herbert Solomon husband of Janet Solomon
- 8 Raymond Moore friend of Adele Franzblau
- 9 Bryan M. 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 Bennett
- 14 Margaret Friedman-Vaughan
friend of Adele Franzblau
- 15 George Lichtenstein uncle of Michele Bennett
- 19 Sydney Abrams Temple Beth Elohim member
- 20 Sadye Danzig Temple Beth Elohim member
- 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 Snyderman Weiss
mother of Noreen Davis
- 3 Helen Friedman step mother of Gary Friedman
and Andy Friedman
- 7 Judy Rosen sister of Marilyn Horowitz
- 7 Lazarus Levkoff grandfather of Susan Berry

OCTOBER

- 9 Bernard Pockell father of Sheila Borash
- 9 Cecil W. Schneider father of Debbie Smith
- 10 Clark Gottlieb Past President
- 10 Minnie F. Ringel Temple Beth Elohim member
- 11 Ida E. Schanzer Simon mother of Ruth Feinberg
- 11 Alexander Apfel father of Cindy Danzek
- 12 Abraham Fogel Temple Beth Elohim member
- 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
- 23 Benjamin D. Richman cousin of Seymour Birnbaum
- 24 Theresa Block Baruch Temple Beth Elohim memorial
- 24 Philip Hurwitz Temple Beth Elohim member
- 30 Meyer Danzig Temple Beth Elohim member
- 31 Frances Goldstein step mother 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.

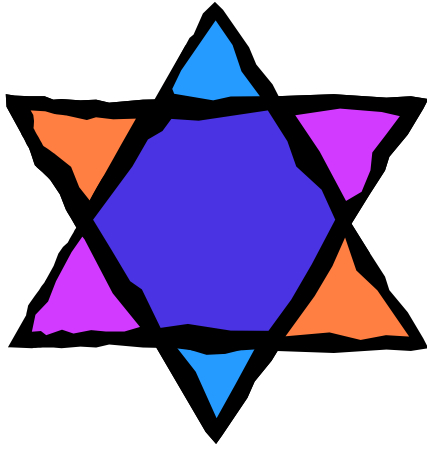
New Memorial Plaques

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.



SHALOM

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Sunshine Committee Chair: Tish Richter
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Oneg Shabbats: Joy Birnbaum
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Photography: Randy Cavaliere (Joy Birnbaum)