

Temple Beth Elohim
A blend of faith and friendship for 120 years

Volume 23 Issue 2
November/December 2025
Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5786

Visit our website: www.templebethelohim.net

The Rising Star

P.O. Box 571 Georgetown, SC 29442

843 325-0389

info.bethelohim@gmail.com

Happy Chanukah

14-22 December 2025 24 Kislev – 2 Tevet 5786



President
Richard

From the President

The Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) came to an end on 14 October 2025. The very next day was *Simchat Torah* where the last chapters of Deuteronomy are read, the *Torah* is re-rolled, and the first few passages of Genesis are recited. *Chag sameach*. Yes, let's start all over again.

We now have ten lay leaders and a rabbi who will be preparing and sharing their interpretations of

the fifty-*Torah* portions that are now in front of us for each *Shabbat* service. Please join us.

Two weeks ago, members from a local chapter of the DAR came to the Temple Beth Elohim cemetery, having learned we had a Revolutionary War soldier buried there. They made a generous donation to our Wall Fund and made an appointment to spend time cleaning headstones with a group from our temple. We all worked together

using water, solvent, and scrub brushes to beautify the cemetery. A few passersby even cheered us on.

THE MACCABEES: History vs. Archaeology

From priests to kings, the Maccabees created an independent Jewish kingdom in the second century BCE. Their success was a testament to their zeal—and some significant external factors.

continued on p. 5 [From the President]

Wisdom From Afar....

Suzan Cohen



Suzan Cohen

The first candle of *Chanukah* will be lit at sunset on Sunday, 14 December, and the holiday will end at sunset on Monday, 22 December. This holiday commemorates the victory in 164 BCE, of Judah Maccabee, and the reconsecration of the Temple in Jerusalem. As the story goes, there was only enough oil for one day, but lasted for the entire eight days required to complete the consecration. *Chanukah* features lighting candles for eight days and eating fried foods to remember the miracle of the oil.

Chanukah is also supposed to be a time of rejoicing and relaxing. In fact, no work is supposed to be done while the candles are burning. So, over the years, Jews began playing a gambling game with the dreidel to pass the time. The dreidel is a four-sided top, with each side having a Hebrew letter that basically also provides the rules of the game. The game is meant to be a harmless pastime where, after you ante up, the letter that comes up when you spin the top tells you what to do: take the whole pot; take half the pot; do nothing; or ante up again.

But of course, in Hebrew school we were taught that the dreidel and the game had a deeper meaning. Jews in the time of the Maccabees were forbidden to study *Torah* by the Greeks, and playing dreidel was used to cover up the study sessions. Some of us may have heard that it was Jews in the Middle Ages who used playing dreidel to cover up their illegal studies. Neither version of the story can be proven – there's absolutely no evi-

dence of dreidels, either as physical objects or as references in Jewish writings, until the 18th century. In fact, the dreidel originally had nothing to do with *Chanukah*, or even with Jews, at all.

Historians now generally accept that Jews borrowed the dreidel from their Christian neighbors, probably in German-speaking Europe, likely in the 18th century. By then the game was popular throughout Europe, and both the top itself and the gambling associated with it were known in English as "teetotum."

In Germany, the rules for playing dreidel were represented by four German letters: 'G' for *ganz* (all); 'H' for *halb* (half); 'N' for *nischt* (nothing); and 'S' for *schict* (put). These words were translated into Yiddish (which is written in Hebrew letters), resulting in tops that were marked with a Gimel for *gants* (all), a Hay for *halb* (half), a Nun for *nit* (nothing), and a Shin for *shtel* (put).

Continued on p. 5 [Wisdom from Afar]

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

Michael Davidson
Tom Llewellyn



27 November 2027

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), **Andy**

Friedman (andy.friedman@hotmail.com); **Seymour**

Birnbaum (joyandseymour@gmail.com); **Ted Weiss**

(tedweiss51@gmail.com)

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.



Rabbi Scott Weiner

Rabbi Scott is scheduled to return to Temple Beth Elohim on 5 December 2025.

The rabbi will lead a class on Saturday morning, 6 December 2025.

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



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

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
6 Dyan & Alex
Cohen

DECEMBER



Let us pray for the restoration of health of

SHANE FINKEL

grandson of Carrol Sallas

VETERAN'S DAY
11 November 2025

We are grateful to our members and those in their families who have served our country. Thank you for your service.

DONATIONS



Susan Berry to the Cemetery Wall Fund in memory of Bryan M. Schneider and to the General Fund in memory of Lazarus Levkoff
Jody Pollack Blazer to the Security Fund
Joy & Seymour Birnbaum to the Security Fund
Edwina & Andy Friedman in memory of Helen Friedman
Roz & Louis Greenzweig in memory of Roslyn & Herbert Greenzweig, Ida & Walter Banner
Diana Heller to the General Fund and the Security Fund
Hobcaw Barony – to the General Fund in memory of Benedict Rosen
Ronnie Ludwin to the General Fund
Larry Matthews to the *Challah* Fund
Mischelle & Gerald Napoleone to the General Fund in memory of Sheldon Gershman
Marc Newman to the General Fund for *Yom Kippur* services
Sandra & Jeffrey Nihiser to the General Fund
Lisa Ockun to the General Fund
Purr & Pour Cat Café to the Cemetery Wall Fund



Dick Rosen
20 April 1936 –
16 September 2025

BENEDICT (“DICK”) ROSEN

Benedict “Dick” Rosen passed away peacefully on September 16, 2025 at the age of 89, after a short illness.

Dick and his beloved wife of 67 years, Brenda, have lived in Myrtle Beach for 51 years.

Dick was born in Columbia, SC but soon moved to Georgetown, SC where he graduated from Winyah High School in 1954. He then went on to get a BS in Electrical Engineering at MIT.

Dick met Brenda while in college and they moved across state to Williamstown, MA where they raised three kids, Andy, Greg and Heidi. Dick’s first job was at Sprague Electric in North Adams, MA and subsequently made his first and only career change in 1971, leaving Williamstown for a new position in a company that later became AVX Corporation.

Dick’s career changed dramatically in 1974 when he moved the family to Myrtle Beach, SC to run the AVX manufacturing facility, only 30 miles from where his parents, Erma and Sylvan, still lived.

Over the years, Dick rose in the organization finally being named CEO and President of AVX, overseeing 23,000 employees in numerous countries. Dick played an integral role in the Kyocera acquisition of AVX in 1989 and was soon named as a representative

director of Kyocera, one of the first Americans to sit on the board of a Japanese company.

Dick enjoyed spending time with his loving family, playing golf with his sons and father while remaining active in the community. He served on the boards of Brookgreen Gardens, Temple Emanu-El, Horry Georgetown Tech, The Dunes Golf and Beach Club and several financial institutions in the Myrtle Beach and surrounding areas.

In addition to his wife, Brenda, Dick is survived by his sons and daughters, Andy (Susan) Rosen, Greg (Tracy) Rosen, Heidi (David) Mann, grandchildren Melissa (Don) Ayres, Dr. Lindsay Rosen (Scott Starkey), Ethan (Kinsey) Mann, Jillian (Evan) Fischer, Jeffrey Rosen and Sophie Rosen and six great grandchildren.

Courtesy of
McMillan-Small Funeral Home and Crematory

Wisdom From Afar....

[continued from p. 2]

So where did the tale of using a dreidel to cover up *Torah* study come from? The earliest source seems to be from an American Hebrew-language book, first published in 1890, *Otzar Kol Mingagei Yeshurun*, written by Avraham Ever Hershovitz, a Rabbi from Pittsburgh. Go figure! SC

From the President

[continued from p. 1]

There are several ancient texts that describe the Maccabees' rise to power. These include the apocryphal books of 1 and 2 Maccabees (New Testament), as well as the writings of Josephus, a Jewish historian who lived in the first century. They detail the events, summarized below, which transpired in the second century BCE and led to the foundation of the Hasmonean Kingdom.

HISTORY:

1. In the mid-second century BCE, the Seleucid Empire controlled Judea and promoted Hellenistic (Greek) culture and religion. Some Jews embraced this, but others did not.
2. The Seleucid ruler Antiochus IV escalated tensions by sacking Jerusalem, building a fortress (called the Akra), sacrificing a pig in the Jerusalem Temple, and issuing an edict to abolish Jewish law and worship.
3. In opposition, Mattathias Maccabee, a Jewish priest, and his five sons, John, Simon, Judah, Eliezer, and Jonathan, started a rebellion c. 167 BCE. They gathered forces and fought against the Seleucid rulers and those who supported them.
4. The Maccabees suffered loss, with Mattathias, John, Judah, Eliezer, and Jonathan all dying in battle. Nevertheless, they managed to rededicate the Temple and reclaim Jerusalem and Judea. They established an independent Jewish kingdom, called the Hasmonean Kingdom, with Simon Maccabee as its first ruler c. 142 BCE.
5. Later Hasmonean rulers continued to expand their kingdom into Samaria and Galilee. Some even took the title of king.

ARCHAEOLOGY:

To gain another viewpoint of these events, Andrea M. Berlin takes readers on an archaeological survey of the regions that became Maccabean territory. Judea, Samaria, and part of Galilee. In cities and villages across Galilee and part of the coastal plain,

she sees a recurring pattern: Sites prospered and reflect a Hellenistic culture during the beginning of the second century BCE, but then they were abruptly abandoned or destroyed in the 140s BCE. Later in the second century BCE, they were resettled and reflect Jewish life and culture.

The interpretation seems clear: The Seleucids controlled the area and promoted Greek culture and international trade networks. Then they abandoned the area; something forced them out. Later, Jews resettled these areas as part of the Hasmonean Kingdom. Historical texts credit the Maccabees as being the force that drove the Seleucids from those lands, but Berlin believes that the archaeological remains tell another story. The sites reflect decades of tension between the two major powers in the area: the Ptolemaic Empire, based in Egypt, and the Seleucid Empire, based in Syria and Turkey. Both desired the region, tried to exert their influence over it, and fought each other repeatedly to gain control over its territories. That fighting, as well as infighting among Seleucid factions, is what caused the destruction and abandonment of Galilean sites in the middle of the second century BCE. The land then lay abandoned for about 20 years before being resettled as part of the Hasmonean Kingdom. Berlin explains:

The brutal events of the late 140s left broad regions with abandoned settlements and broken networks. It is exactly inside this moment that Simon retakes the Akra in Jerusalem—an event that, considering how factionalized and otherwise occupied the competing Seleucid forces were, may now be seen as more opportunistic than organized.

The Maccabees certainly had some victories, but they also benefited immensely from the fighting between the Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires. Essentially, they walked into a power vacuum, which enabled them to establish their kingdom. RAD



Yahrzeits



NOVEMBER

Tillie Drucker Gershman grandmother of Michele Bennett
 1 Sophie S. Levkoff grandmother of Susan Berry
 1 Ruby Fogel Levkoff member Temple Beth Elohim
 2 Sara 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 Berest Gershman mother of Michele Bennett
 13 Edward Solomon son of Janet Solomon
 13 Arnold H. Franzblau father of Adele Franzblau
 14 Irving Snyder member Temple Beth Elohim
 15 Anne L. Schneider mother of Debbie Smith
 15 Joan Davidson sister of Michael Davidson
 16 Charlotte Berest Rosenfeld aunt of Michele Bennett
 17 Arnold Kane Beth Elohim memorial
 18 David Giegerich brother of AJ Giegerich
 18 Kate Tiftickjian
 Johnston friend of Marty Kleinrock
 18 Herbert Dimentstein father of Richard Dimentstein
 19 Jerome Sallas husband of Carrol Sallas
 19 Sylvia Charen Hirsch grandmother of Debbi Jones
 22 Milton Levkoff member Temple Beth Elohim
 25 Sanford Levkoff uncle of Susan Berry
 26 Charles Chaplin member Temple Beth Elohim
 27 Stanley Ross uncle of Lynn Davidson
 28 Bernard Levine father of Nancy Koppel

DECEMBER

6 Bari King Heiden member Temple Beth Elohim
 10 Philip Lewenthal great grandfather of Susan Berry
 11 Albert 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 Temple Beth Elohim memorial
 22 Nettie Rosen mother of Marilyn Horowitz
 23 Sarah Ross mother of Lynn Davidson
 26 Fannie L. Schneider grandmother of Susan Berry
 and Debbie Smith
 27 Gertrude O. Abrams member Temple Beth Elohim
 27 Anthony Cavaliere husband of Randy Cavaliere
 28 Fred Craig father of Ronnie Craig
 29 Meg Giegerich Irving sister of AJ Giegerich
 31 Arthur Giegerich father of AJ Giegerich
 31 Mickey Linado Temple Beth Elohim memorial
 31 Morris Lieberman grandfather of Craig Lieberman



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

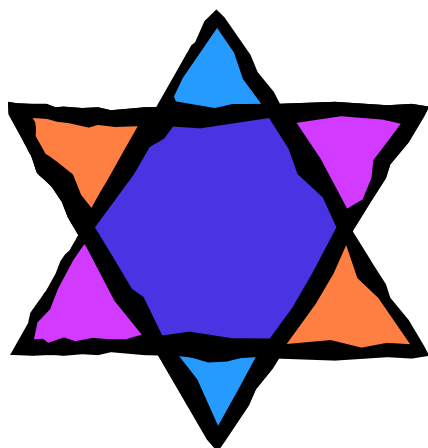
BETH ELOHIM CEMETERY

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.



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: Andy Friedman (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

Library Chair: Richard Dimentstein (Tish Richter)

Oneg Shabbats: Ariane Lieberman

Web Page: Joy Birnbaum

Website (www.templebethelohim.net): Joy Birnbaum

Photography: Randy Cavaliere; Louis Greenzweig