

Temple Beth Elohim

A blend of faith and friendship for over 115 years

Visit our website: www.templebethelohim.net

Volume 19 Issue 2
November/December 2021
Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet (5782)

The Rising Star

P.O. Box 571 Georgetown, SC 29442

843 325-0389

membership.tbe@gmail.com

Happy Chanukah

חנוכה שמחה

Remembering The Tree of Life Synagogue Massacre



President Richard

27 October 2021 was the third anniversary of this tragic incident. At that time, in 2018, Temple Beth Elohim sent words of support to the Tree of Life congregation and planted 11 trees in Israel to memorialize each victim. These trees serve as a living tribute. On the anniversary, Jonathan Greenblatt, Executive Officer of the Anti-Defamation League, sent us the following



Jonathan Greenblatt

letter through our website. Vice President Joy Birnbaum read this aloud on *Shabbat* following the anniversary. She read it just before we said *Kaddish*.

Dear Friend,

Three years ago on this day, a heavily armed white supremacist with a heart full of hatred entered the Tree of Life synagogue building in Pittsburgh and began the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history. It took the killer less than 11 minutes to take 11 lives.

Today is a time to remember and to grieve over the lives lost to a fanatic yelling "All Jews must die" as he entered the synagogue where three congregations had their homes. It is an unthinkable tragedy, stealing the lives of 11 people from their families, their friends, their communities. We remember

Joyce Fienberg Bernice Simon
Richard Gottfried Sylvan Simon
Rose Mallinger Daniel Stein
Jerry Rabinowitz Melvin Wax
Cecil Rosenthal Irving Younger
David Rosenthal

But simply to mourn and simply to remember each year – which we must – is not enough. This horrific attack changed the lives of so many people who felt "it could never happen here."

I invite you to stand with me, with ADL, with your family and friends and most importantly, with the grieving Pittsburgh community to remember the 11 lives lost, and to be stronger than hate as we show our support for those still suffering and to protect those in need of protection.

*Sincerely,
Jonathan Greenblatt
CEO and National Director
ADL*

Wisdom From Afar....

Suzan Cohen



Ritual Scholar
Suzan

I have to confess that I have been struggling these past several days to find something different to write about *Chanukah*. It's part of my larger, never-ending pandemic-induced, low grade anxiety that has left me unable to generate much en-

thusiasm about any of the upcoming winter holidays.

So perhaps it was God answering my prayers when my email box this morning held a message from *My Jewish Learning* (<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/>). An article in this newsletter, written by Rabbi Evan Moffic of Congregation Solel in Highland Park, Illinois, described *Eilu Devarim* ("These are the Words"), also known as the happiness prayer.

What is the happiness prayer? It is a series of verses from the *Mishnah* that are recited as part of the traditional morning worship service. It is found in many prayer books as part of the traditional series of morning blessings. The prayer promotes flourishing, which Rabbi Moffic feels is the true basis of happiness – happiness that is experienced through a life of meaning and purpose.

The prayer, as translated by Rabbi Moffic, lists a total of ten actions that promote happiness, as follows:

These are the deeds with infinite benefits. A person enjoys their fruit in this world and in the world to come. Guide me in embracing these sacred practices

*Honor those who gave me life
Practice kindness*

Learn constantly

Invite others into my home

Be there when others need me

Celebrate life's sacred moments

Support others during times of loss

Pray with intention

Forgive those who hurt me and seek forgiveness where I have hurt others

Commit to constant growth

Eilu Devarim can, of course, be interpreted in many ways. But almost all of the ten practices involve other people. Inviting others into our lives, practicing kindness, and comforting others in need are just the most direct examples. So, for *Chanukah* (or Thanksgiving or any *simcha*), the path to enjoying the occasion isn't necessarily learning a new lesson about its history or ritual, but letting ourselves be open to how we can make it an opportunity for others to enjoy the moment.

GEORGETOWN THEATRE ORCHESTRA

IN CONCERT
**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 2
7:00 PM**

WINYAH AUDITORIUM

**Christmas at the Opera
and
Mini Messiah Sing**

Featuring the
INDIGO CHORUS

Bring your own score

Winyah Auditorium
Highmarket St.
Georgetown, SC

Music of
Victor Herbert
George F Handel
Irving Berlin
Andrew L Webber

Holiday Music
And More

Come check us out!

contact
Stan Earnhart
516-659-0599
Searnhart49@gmail.com

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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.



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
 19 Herb Feinberg
 20 Roberta Schwartz
 24 Steve Schwartz
 25 Jim Bennett



ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER

2 Donna & Tom
 Llewellyn
 6 Alex & Dyan
 Cohen

DECEMBER

14 Debbi & Webster
 Jones



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

How do you celebrate “Chrismukkah”?



Debbie Hart

“Chrismukkah” is a pop-culture portmanteau neologism referring to the merging of the holidays of Christianity’s Christmas and Judaism’s Chanukah. It first arose in the German-speaking countries within middle-class Jews of the 19th century.

And we thought George Costanza and Jerry Seinfeld produced the holiday. Whatever you name it and define it, many of us “celebrate” the tradition with food, decorations, and lots of gifts.

This can be a time to educate our children and grandchildren about the history of *Chanukah*. We do so by lighting the *menorah*, reciting the history of *Chanukah*, and having parties. Many of us try to dispel the notion of *Chanukah* as only an eight-gift holiday and an appetizer to Christmas.

This is a dilemma that many of us at Temple Beth Elohim grapple with every year. I talked with a few families of interfaith background to see how they manage these holidays.

First there is my husband and me. He is Christian and loves everything about Christmas. He gets a tree and starts playing his holiday tunes and movies early in December. He makes out a list right after Thanksgiving and emails it to me and his family. My son, who is now twenty-seven, expected lots of gifts for both holidays when he was younger. I was always worried I did not get him enough because he was an only child. I know now there were more than enough because when I cleaned his closet years later, I found a few brand-new gifts from 2001 to 2010.

Before I got married my observance of Christmas was to go to the movies all day and eat Chinese food.

I had problems acknowledging these Christmas traditions. We never had a Christmas tree, and I was not going to get one when we first married. As far as gifts for my husband, he really could buy whatever he wanted but instead he loves unwrapping gifts on December 25. We ate Christmas dinner at his mother’s house all crammed into her little kitchen. This was the authentic celebration of the holiday and I loved it.

I still will not refer to *Chanukah* as the Jewish Christmas. The only similarity is that they both occur in December. Now that I live in Georgetown County, I especially believe we should avoid miscibility between Christmas and *Chanukah*. Not to “*Mensch* on a Bench,” “*Chanukah* Charlie” and *Chanukah* trees. I place my glowing *menorah* in the window and light my candles each night.

Another couple who has been married for over 20 years with grown children told me they never had a problem

melding the two holidays. His tradition is to decorate the tree on Christmas Eve. Hers is the *menorah* lighting. They found it easy to celebrate both holidays while maintaining the significance of each holiday in their celebrations. They still give each other little gifts and cards for both. They send only *Chanukah* gifts to the grandkids.

The other couple I spoke with have been married for 20 years. They each come from very traditional Christian and Jewish families. Once they married, they started their own traditions with their blended families. The kids did get eight little gifts and Christmas presents. They went to his family’s large Christmas feasts and he does the tree decorating. From the beginning, they always felt comfortable with each other’s rituals because this is how a good marriage works.

After talking to my friends and doing some research, I have concluded that these holidays should not cause friction. It is the devotion for each other that can allow us to embrace our differences and create new family traditions.

“Although the root of Christmas and *Chanukah* celebrates two very different things (one being the birth of Jesus, the other being a victory over religious oppression), on the surface, they are both about lights, gifts, and family.” [From “Hello, Giggles” website]

I began this article by wanting to share a guide on how to celebrate “Chrismukkah.” After listening to everyone, I realize there are no rules but only personal strategies. Rituals and festivities change with time and many of us live far away from our families. Our children are adults, and we now have grandchildren. We send gifts and let their parents decide when to disburse them. I wanted to be sure that the Jewish traditions are being carried on for future generations. I learned this is being accomplished in diverse ways as a family. Everyone also pointed out to me that we have another family in Temple Beth Elohim and the big *Chanukah* celebration is coming soon where everyone is invited.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

DONATIONS



Randy & Tony Cavaliere to the General Fund in memory of Nancy Cavaliere
Noreen Davis & Alan Gramet to the General Fund in memory of Selma S. Weiss
Louis Greenzweig to the General Fund
Ariane & Craig Lieberman to the General Fund in memory of Myrna Fishbein
Beth Solomon to the General Fund in memory of Herb Solomon

Save Those Aluminum Tabs!

For quite some time, Trustee Carrol Sallas has been collecting the aluminum tabs that are found on soda cans, juice cans, pet food tins and even at the top of some tennis ball tubes. Once she has an accumulation, Carrol sends them down to KK Beth Elohim in Charleston to be merged with their collection. Eventually these little rings are given to the Ronald McDonald House. They turn these little treasures in to a recycling center that pays them cash.

The next time you pop a can of anything with an aluminum tab, please don't throw that little circle away. Save it. Bring it to temple and either give it to Carrol or drop it in the big jar on the window sill of the Social Hall.

This is just one more of our community services.



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



NOVEMBER

Tillie D. Gershman	grandmother of Michele Bennett
1 Ruby Fogel Levkoff	member Temple Beth Elohim
1 Sophie S. Levkoff	grandmother of Susan Berry
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 B. Gershman	mother of Michele Bennett
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 B. Rosenfeld	aunt of Michele Bennett
17 Arnold Kane	member Temple Beth Elohim
18 Thelma Barson	sister of Ruth Feinberg
18 Herbert Dimentstein	father of Richard Dimentstein
18 Kate T. Johnston	friend of Marty Kleinrock
19 Sylvia Charen Hirsch	grandmother of Debbie Jones
19 Jerome Sallas	husband of Carol 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
29 Rose H. Weinberg	mother of Eric Heiden
29 Mort Weinberg	step-father of Eric Heiden

DECEMBER

6 Bari King Heiden	wife of Eric Heiden
10 Philip Lewenthal	great grandfather of Susan Berry great grandfather of Dick Rosen
11 Albert M. Schneider	grandfather of Debbie Smith grandfather of Susan Berry
11 Jennie Lewenthal	member Temple Beth Elohim
13 Irving Simon	brother of Ruth Feinberg
14 Lavene Gause	father of Miriam Drucker
15 Sally Dube	mother of Jana Hletko
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 Fanny L. Schneider	grandmother of Debbie Smith grandmother of Susan Berry
27 Gertrude O. Abrams	member Temple Beth Elohim
29 Meg Giegerich Irving	sister of AJ Giegerich
31 Arthur Giegerich	father of AJ Giegerich
31 Mickey Linado	friend of Temple Beth Elohim
31 Morris Lieberman	grandfather of Craig Lieberman



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.

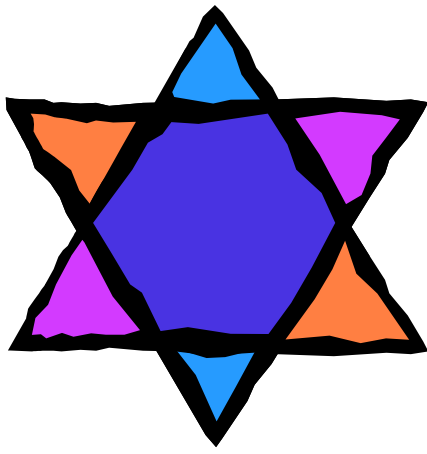
New Memorial Plaques

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.



First Class
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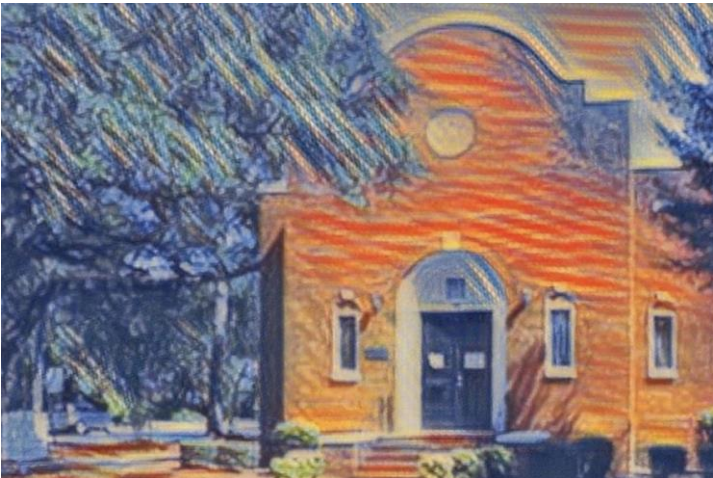
SHALOM

A blend of faith and friendship for over 100 years

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