

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

Volume 24 Issue 1
September/October 2026
Elul 5786; Tishrei/Cheshvan 5787

Visit our website: www.templebethelohim.net

The Rising Star

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5787

HIGH HOLIDAYS
TEMPLE BETH ELOHIM

2026

FRIDAY 11 SEPT. 7:00 PM		EREV ROSH HASHANAH LEADER: MICHELE GERSHMAN-BENNETT
SATURDAY 12 SEPT. 10:00 AM		ROSH HASHANAH LEADERS: ANDY FRIEDMAN RICHARD DIMENTSTEIN HAFTARAH: MICHAEL DAVIDSON SHOFAR: LOUIS DRUCKER TASHLICH: Immediately following service (Waterfront at Screven Street).
FRIDAY 18 SEPT. 7:00 PM		SHABBAT SHUVA LEADERS: ANDY FRIEDMAN RONNIE CRAIG
SUNDAY 20 SEPT. 7:00 PM		KOL NIDRE LEADERS: JOY & SEYMOUR BIRNBAUM KOL NIDRE CHANT: DR. PATTI EDWARDS PIANIST: SANDRA NIHISER
MONDAY 21 SEPT. 10:00 AM		YOM KIPPUR – MORNING SERVICE LEADERS: RICHARD DIMENTSTEIN SHIRLEY GIEGERICH HAFTARAH: MICHAEL DAVIDSON SHOFAR: LOUIS DRUCKER
MONDAY 21 SEPT. 4:00 PM		YOM KIPPUR – YIZKOR & CONCLUDING SERVICE LEADER: ARIANE LIEBERMAN SHOFAR: LOUIS DRUCKER
MONDAY 21 SEPT.		FOLLOWING CONCLUDING SERVICE BREAK-THE-FAST (ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIRED)

We wish you and your family a sweet, healthy, and meaningful New Year.



President Ariane

From Our President

As the very hot days of summer begin to shift, we find ourselves on the threshold of a beautiful new season. September brings with it the Hebrew month of *Elul* – a sacred time dedicated to reflection, turning inward, and preparing our hearts for the High Holy Days.

Looking back at the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for the vitality of Temple Beth Elohim. We have prayed, learned, celebrated, and supported one another through life's triumphs and challenges. Our synagogue is not just a building; it is a sacred home built by the dedication of every single member. In July, our community gathered for two incredibly special events. It was a joy to see so many families – and their furry four-legged friends – at our first *Pet Shabbat*; and not our last. Blessing our pets reminded us all of the sacred spark in all living things. Later that month, our summer *Havdallah* brought us together under an evening sky, filling us with

music, warmth, food, and shared community spirit.

This year, our journey into the year 5787 begins early in September. Together we will step into a season of renewal, forgiveness and community connection. Our journey into this New Year is guided by fresh leadership. Following our Annual Meeting in June, I want to formally welcome and thank our newly elected Board of Directors. These dedicated individuals have stepped forward to give their time, vision, and heart to guiding Temple Beth Elohim. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment to our future.

Continued on p. 6 – "From Our President"

Wisdom From Afar....



Suzan Cohen

On the first day of *Rosh HaShanah*, Jews traditionally proceed to a body of running water, preferable one containing fish, and symbolically cast off their sins. The *Tashlich* ceremony includes reading the source passage for the practice, which are the last verses from the prophet Micah (7:19): "He will take us back in love, He will cover up our iniquities. You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

Tashlich is traditionally done on the afternoon of the first day of *Rosh HaShanah* after the *Mincha* service. If the first day falls on *Shabbat*, it is moved to the second day of *Rosh HaShanah*. If you miss it, you can still perform the ritual anytime through the Ten Days of Repentance, up until *Hoshana Rabbah* at the end of *Sukkot*.

The custom developed around the 13th century and became widespread despite objections from rabbis who feared superstitious people would believe that *Tashlich*, rather than the concerted effort of *teshuvah*, had the power to change their lives. Religious leaders were particularly opposed to the practice of tossing breadcrumbs, representing sins, into the water, and even shaking one's garments to loosen any evil clinging to them was discouraged. Superstitious rites most likely did influence the ceremony. Primitive people believed that the best way to win favor from evil spirits living in waterways was to give them gifts. Some peoples, including the Babylonian Jews, sent "sin-filled" containers out into the water.

Although many of us have grown up with the tradition of casting breadcrumbs into the water (we didn't know that rabbis in the 13th century didn't approve), the pro-

hibition is based on two laws in the *halachah*: It's forbidden to feed wildlife and to carry things on a *yom tov*. More modern-thinking rabbis frown on the practice based on concerns that we shouldn't be feeding bread to fish. (Maybe we should carry some jars of fish food to the river.)

So why should the body of water have fish in it? Again, there are different symbolic explanations for this, including, for example, fish live precarious lives, always in danger of being caught; we are similarly in a precarious position because of our impending judgment. In addition, fish are blessed to be prolific, which is something we pray for on *Rosh HaShanah*. And lastly, fish are immune to the *ayin hara* ("evil eye"), from which we also seek protection.

Although the rabbis preferred that *Tashlich* be done at a body of water containing fish since this is, after all, a symbolic ceremony, any body of water will do, even water running out of a hose or a faucet. So, yes, you can even do *Tashlich* at home if you cannot get to a natural body of water. Just follow these simple steps:

Continued on p. 4 – "Wisdom from Afar"



<i>Shanah tovah</i>	Good year
<i>Shanah tovah umetukah</i>	Good and sweet year
<i>Ketivah v'chatima tovah</i>	Good inscription and sealing in the Book of Life
<i>Gemar chatimah tovah</i>	Good final sealing

Temple Beth Elohim Board of Directors

President: Ariane Lieberman (rundoc13@gmail.com)

Vice President: Joy Birnbaum

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(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 lead *Shabbat* services in November..

He will continue to conduct a class on the following Saturday morning of the *Shabbat* service.

T B E 1772 LEGACY GROUP

Brenda & Benedict Rosen

Richard Dimentstein

Ruth & Herb Feinberg



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Leaf 1 _____

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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

SEPTEMBER

1 Edwina Friedman
5 Marina Luber
15 Richard Dimentstein
16 Carrol Sallas
19 Seymour Birnbaum
20 Andy Friedman
23 Ira Tal

OCTOBER

2 Gary Friedman
3 Louis Greenzweig
5 Marilyn Horowitz
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 pray for the restoration of health of
SHANE FINKEL
grandson of Carrol Sallas

DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

Ruth Farb
Kathryn & David Kossove
Debra & RJ Lewis
Carrol Sallas

SECURITY FUND

Joy & Seymour Birnbaum
Lynn & Michael Davidson
Ruth Farb
Debbie & Art Kaufman
Kathryn & David Kossove
Ariane & Craig Lieberman
Carrol Sallas

CEMETERY FUND

Richard Dimentstein
Kelsy Forester
Rosalind & Louis Greenzweig
Margaret Harritt
Debbie & Art Kaufman
Susan Volansky



YAHREZITS (GENERAL FUND)

ROBERT & ROSEMARIE GARRISON in memory of John W. Bello

ARIANE & CRAIG LIEBERMAN in memory of Arnold Lieberman, Rose Ulrich, Malva Ulrich

CARROL SALLAS in memory of Morris Salles and Mary Levine

Wisdom from Afar...

Continued from p. 2

- **Fill a container:** Use a large bowl., bucket, or your kitchen sink filled with water
 - **Write your reflections:** Use plain paper and washable markers to write down the habits or mistakes you want to leave behind from the past year
 - **Submerge the paper:** Place the paper into the water and watch the ink wash away or dissolve
- Recite traditional verses:** Read the traditional *Tashlich* prayers (from the Book of Micah) or offer your own silent reflection on starting the New Year fresh

SC



Dr. Craig Lieberman

Craig's Corner

Viral conundrum

The following article is not very good and is quite difficult to read. It is a series of facts with a common viral theme. There is no storyline and no judgment. If you are able to finish it, and at the end rethink some of your preconceived opinions, then I have done well.

A virus is nothing more than a microbe, either DNA or RNA, surrounded by protein. This protein, DNA laced structure, replicates in a living cell because it lacks the cellular machinery to reproduce on its own. In that regard, it must invade another cell to replicate.

A bacterium is a member of a large group of unicellular microorganisms which have complete cellular structures, including a nucleus, and can invade another organism by itself and multiply accordingly.

A fungus is any group of spore-producing organisms, feeding on organic matter or a fruiting body such as a mushroom.

Size matters

To avoid extensive volume calculations, in microns, the difference in volume between a bacterium and a virus is like comparing a basketball to a mosquito.

Immunization

Immunization is the action of making one person or animal resistant to a particular infectious disease or

pathogen. The classic mechanism of immunization is the adaptive process of introducing a benign antigen, or memory seeking target, to the human body. Then our body generates a response, via its extensive immunologic tools, including a B or T cell mediated response, and saves that antigenic map for a later time to attack any reintroduction of that foreign body. The mechanism occurs when a macrophage captures the foreign body, of virus/bacteria, and transports it to the lymphatic system where a response is generated by T and B cells, which kill virus and bacterial engines. The memory of that foreign body is saved in the bone marrow and can re-emerge when stimulated by repeat exposure. This memory however, does not last forever in most circumstances and cannot always adjust to the changing antigenic map of the evolving bacteria or virus. The mechanism of the new mRNA vaccine is really quite different. A lipid laden nano particle or LNP, which is an encapsulated segment of messenger RNA embedded in the cyto transport system, is introduced to the B and T cells to drive an immune response. This is a dramatic difference because it also generates an immune response via

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cytokines and inflammatory cells in the body since these antigens are expressed on the surface of immune cells. Although this discovery/invention is an absolute true miracle you can see that it is a complex novel and as of yet, difficult to prove a long-term solution to one of the most devastating diseases the world has ever known.

The 6-foot rule

There is a famous droplet study done in 1897 by a German bacteriologist named Carl Fogie. The study was reconfirmed and documented to be very accurate, in 1934 by William Wells. He showed that respiratory droplets related to tuberculosis, a bacteria, left the body as a projectile with each breath, and never traveled further than 6 feet. Keep in mind the study was never reconfirmed using viruses, which although leave the body as a droplet, remain an aerosol for an extensive amount of time and distance. Thus transmission is proportional to the amount of time in the air, the size of the droplet, exposure time, distance and virulence, which is the ease at which a pathogen can be transferred from one person to another.

The mask

In the US, we have studied 172 observational and comparative studies of 25,697 patients. These studies confirmed that transmission based on observation of pathogens seropositivity decreases by approximately 30%. This is an observational retrospective analysis and the influence of mask compliance and handwashing was not clear. When broken apart, mass handwashing and distance increased reduction of transfer to 63%. A better study was done in Bangladesh, which included 342,183 patients over 600 villages. There was only a 9% relative risk reduction in symptomatic Covid transmissions based on seropositive analysis over eight weeks. The study also documented the total mask compliance, including time, fit and covering both mask and mouth, was only seen in approximately 29% of patients. Overall, it was only an 11% risk reduction in transmission over this timeframe. The difference between absolute risk reduction and relative risk reduction is straightforward. Absolute risk reduction is the difference in percentage of an event recurring – for example, 20% versus 10%. However, relative risk reduction, in the same calculation, would yield a relative risk reduction of 50%.

The power of Herd immunity

Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a population becomes immune to a contagious disease reducing its

spread and indirectly protecting those who are not immune. Immunity can occur via natural mechanisms of infections, causing natural resistance, or through vaccination. Herd immunity occurs when more than 95% of the population is immune to a pathogen. Remember that infection or inoculation often causes only partial immunity, reducing the shedding, decreasing likelihood of re-infection and decreased duration of symptomatology without complete prevention. This is the predominant mechanism and still affects Herd immunity by dropping mortality, but not necessarily infection or symptomatology. At the same time that we are slowly achieving Herd immunity, the virus is also changing, as they all do, becoming less deadly but more virulent.

The math

Herd transmission = $1-1/R_0$

Without a more detailed description, this mathematical fact does not consider our best efforts of distancing, isolation, handwashing, and mask use.

Vaccination injury

There is no single mechanism of vaccine injury. As a matter of fact, it is very difficult to prove an event is related to a vaccine since these events occur randomly in medicine. Also, you would be surprised to know how many of these events are not related to the vaccine, but to the virus itself. However, the vaccine related injuries may be due to:

1. Acute injury is rarely seen in any vaccine and is usually related to hypersensitivity mediated by the mast cell
2. Rare antigen specific cross reactivity to normal body systems
3. Stimulation of antibody directed attack on the body's own cellular processes such as blood reactions or clots.
4. Immune, dysregulation or uncontrolled inflammation as seen in pericarditis pneumonitis or long Covid

Data facts

There are approximately 32 cases of documented vaccine injuries per hundred thousand person years. A person year is the number of cases times the time a person is studied.

Continued on p. 6 "Craig's Corner"

From Our President

Continued from p. 1

Creating a meaningful High Holy Day experience requires an extraordinary amount of behind-the-scenes effort. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Lay Leaders, our Ritual Committee, our Holiday Meal Committee, and our volunteers. From preparing the sanctuary and the services to the Break-the-Fast and coordinating security, your hard work ensures that our community can gather in peace and joy.

Looking further ahead, we are excited about our annual *Mah Jongg* Marathon fundraiser. Led by **Debbie Hart**, this event has become a highlight of our social calendar, bringing together experienced players and newcomers alike for a day of fun, friendly compe-

tion, and community spirit, all while supporting our Temple. Be sure to look for registration information and details in the coming months

As we look toward the sound of the *shofar*, my prayer for our congregation is one of health, deep peace, and enduring connection. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a sweet, good, and fulfilling New Year

L;Shana Tova U'metuka

May you have a good and sweet New Year,

Ariane

Craig's Corner

continued from p. 5

Opinion

There is absolutely no doubt that the Covid vaccine made absolutely no difference in the mortality of children. There is also no doubt that there was a significant mortality benefit in our most vulnerable communities, and the vaccine did not significantly limit

transmission. The production, evolution, and scientific accomplishments of this new vaccine is a miracle. Yet that miracle came with an overwhelming cost of the social fabric of our country and a side effect profile that may take decades to fully understand.

CL



Joy

There Are Never Too Many Reminders

Joy Birnbaum

I just finished reading a magazine called *Holocaust Remembered*, published by the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust, that I got at the Southern Georgetown County Library.

Michele (Bennett) and I decided to go to the exhibit, **Stars Without a Heaven: Children of the Holocaust**, a few Fridays ago. We got to the library after a lovely, sunny drive south on 17, and couldn't understand why the parking lot was totally empty. So we got out of the car, peeked in the window, and noticed the library hours posted on the door: CLOSED FRIDAY. Darn!

Being clear about the library hours, my second and more successful attempt to see the exhibit was last Monday (I knew the library would be open!!) with Debbie (Hart). I'm sure Michele would have enjoyed a second chance to go, but unfortunately, she was not available.

Debbie and I walked into a small lobby. To our left was a table displaying a wide variety of schedules, very cool classes, and info about the library. We entered the main library and met a lovely librarian who told us where the exhibit was located. So we went back to the lobby and across to a good-sized room lined with long tables in several rows. Each table had giant posters/panels with pictures and stories depicting children playing, child labor and daily life

Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the Holocaust, located in Jerusalem, provided this touching quote: "Despite their appalling situations and living conditions, children still engaged in imaginative play, sketching, and writing, expressing their hopes, dreams and fears. The exhibition opens a moving and exhilarating glimpse into the lives of these Jewish children."

As I read each of the stories, I could feel myself holding back tears. When I looked at the faces of these youngsters, I could only think, "Never Again." With the rampant rise of antisemitism, this exhibit is a reminder that the Holocaust is fading from living memory. The ADL (Anti-Defamation League) suggests that Holocaust learning plays an important role in combatting antisemitism. I'm grateful there is an opportunity for people to see and learn from this exhibit.

We drove back to Georgetown sharing our feelings, pleased the Council is making this important exhibit available, and wondering, and hoping, if it will be coming to the Georgetown and/or Waccamaw Libraries, too.

JB



Yahrzeits



SEPTEMBER

7 Roslyn Greenzweig	mother of Louis Greenzweig
8 Raymond Moore	friend of Adele Franzblau
8 Herbert Solomon	husband of Janet Solomon
11 Larry Poaster	brother of Tish Richter
11 Charles Libros	cousin of Art Kaufman
11 Shelly Gershman	father of Michele Bennett
14 Margaret Friedman Vaughan	friend of Adele Franzblau
15 George Lichtenstein	uncle of Michele Bennett
16 Dick Rosen	husband of Brenda Rosen
19 Sydney Abrams	member Temple Beth Elohim
20 Sadye Danzig	member Temple Beth Elohim
24 Meyer Cornis	uncle of Ruth Farb
27 Toba Vallens Farb	mother of Ruth Farb

OCTOBER

1 Selma Snyderman Weiss	mother of Noreen Davis
3 Helen Friedman	step mother of Andy Friedman and Gary Friedman
4 Herbert Greenzweig	father of Louis Greenzweig
7 Judy Rosen	sister of Marilyn Horowitz

OCTOBER

9 Cecil W. Schneider	father of Debbie Smith
9 Bernard Pockell	father of Sheila Borash
10 Clark Gottlieb	past president Temple Beth Elohim
10 Minnie F. Ringel	member Temple Beth Elohim
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 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 Philip Hurwitz	member Temple Beth Elohim
24 Julius Fogel	member Temple Beth Elohim
24 Theresa Block Baruch	Temple Beth Elohim memorial
30 Meyer Danzig	member Temple Beth Elohim



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

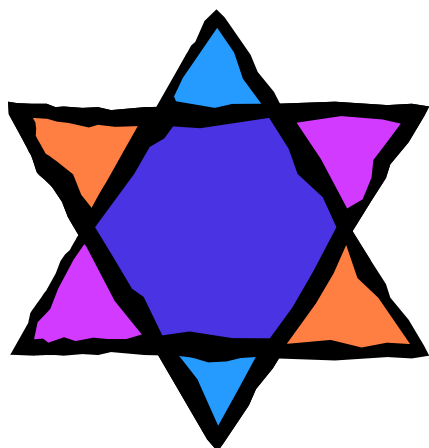
Plaques are displayed permanently on our *Yahrzeit* Board and are lit on the death anniversary of the honoree. Any member who would like to memorialize a loved one should speak with one of our Board members.

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
Marilyn & Richard Horowitz **Tom Llewellyn**





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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