

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



93rd Year

April 2021

Nisan/Iyar 5781

No. 8

Regular Service Schedule - Via Zoom until further notice

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am

Friday Evening Services5:30 pm

Shabbat Morning Services.....10:00 am

Shoshana's Recent Wanderings



March sunset as seen from Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, Middletown, RI



Woodland Graffiti on a hiking trail in Fort Barton Woods, Tiverton, RI



March's lingering ice on a woodland pond in Fort Barton Woods



"Abram's Rock" in the Swansea Village Park

A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Shoshana Brown

Why Pray?

As I write this column, in the middle of March 2021, there is so much in the news at large that is clamoring for my attention. What does a member of the Jewish clergy think about whether or not the New York Governor should resign? What should the Jewish community do to speak out/take action against violence aimed towards Asians and Asian-Americans? What should the Jewish stance be towards the renewed crush of would-be immigrants on our Southern border? Should we or should we not withdraw all remaining U.S. troops from Afghanistan; what will happen to Afghani women and girls? How can we encourage more people to listen to the findings of *science* in making their decisions about getting a coronavirus vaccine, and about wearing masks in public – and in heeding the recommendations about moving our world towards less use of fossil fuels? And what about the upcoming elections in Israel – will this nation that is so important to Jews the world over continue to remain a vibrant democracy?

This is, of course, just the tip of the iceberg of important issues that could engage all or most of one's attention. But then we have issues closer to home: what about the health of our own Jewish community here at Temple Beth El of Fall River? In three years, G!d willing, we should be able to celebrate the 100th anniversary since the formation of "Congregation Beth El" in 1924. (Our first synagogue *building*, moved into in 1927, was a renovated wooden former church which, after only five months, was burned to the ground in the "great fire" of 1928). Our community has had its ups and downs in terms of numbers, but for the most part, in the last few decades, our membership numbers have mirrored the Jewish demographics of the Greater Fall River area.

As surely you all know who are reading this bulletin, Jews prospered in our area during the time when Fall River's mills were still churning out fabric and clothing, and when other Jews moved here to prosper in related industries. Frequently the owners and foremen of these industries were Jewish. They did well for themselves, and were generous to Temple Beth El – we are lucky for that! But for the most part their children, who were able to go to highly-respected colleges and universities, moved away to pursue their careers and start their families elsewhere, and so we missed out on the "dividends" (this next generation's presence that would otherwise have enriched our Jewish communal life).

This story follows the pattern of many factory-, mill-, and mining-towns across our nation. The film *Nomadland*, which recently won awards for Best Film and Best Director at the Golden Globes, and is nominated for six Oscars, tells the story of Fern, a woman who left the northern Nevada town where she and her husband had made their home when the town's gypsum factory closed down its operations. The population of the real town, Empire, Nevada, subsequently dwindled so much that they lost their right to have a zip code! Certainly the closing of most of the mills in Fall River (many now being renovated as condos and apartments) has not had quite this drastic an effect on our area. We are still here! But the population of Jews under age fifty, those still raising children, are by and large missing. Some of this missing population may have married non-Jews and decided not to continue to engage with Judaism. Some may have decided that marrying and/or having children was not for them. But all over the country, there is a surge of populations gathering around large urban areas, while the medium-sized cities and small towns are thinning out.

Of course those of us who are still here *are* still important. Our Jewish lives should not diminish just because we are silver-haired. In fact, in many traditions around the world this age is *precisely* the age when people are thought to be most full of wisdom and open to spiritual endeavors. When we no longer have to work nine to five, or be engaged in diapering and midnight feedings, we have time to turn our attention to spiritual and philosophical questions. What is the meaning of our existence? What wisdom does the Jewish tradition have to offer us about our life, our death? How can we get the most out of our "golden years?"

We are all looking forward to coming out of this "covid cocoon," joining together in community *in person* again. But even before that time comes, you can still join our communal gatherings for study and for prayer via our online Zoom portals. Song, prayer, study, discussion – these are lifelines at any time, but especially when you are cut off from so much of "normal" pre-pandemic life. Many recent medical studies have found that having frequent social interactions, owning a pet, walking faster, and regularly engaging in communal religious worship are all factors that may increase happiness, reduce stress, and prolong our lives (by up to five years!). If you have not engaged in any of our offerings at Temple Beth El recently, I strongly encourage you to give us a try. We are always delighted to add new faces to our "regulars."

Wishing you all good health, and hoping to see you online and *in person* soon!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a safe and happy Passover. I also hope that next year we will once again be able to celebrate Pesach together, as we have for so many years past. It is hard to believe I said the same thing a year ago!

It seems like more and more people I speak to have received both of their Covid vaccinations, and hopefully before too much longer everyone who wants to be vaccinated will be able to do so. While the variants are still a worry, we as a country do seem to be making great strides toward making it safe for all of us to come out into the world again.

We were unable to have a board meeting in March, but we will have one in April and discuss the possibility of reopening the Temple for services, along with a proposed time frame and any new procedures we will need to put in place. Thank you for your patience while we continue to put the health and safety of our congregation above all else.

Just before the High Holidays we hired a roofer, Michael Almeida, to repair the roof over the sanctuary foyer. There were many leaks and nearly countless broken tiles, but Michael believes he has stopped the leaks in that area of the building. As he is also a skilled carpenter, he has been able to repair the ceiling in the foyer, and is now working on the walls in the south tower. The next project is to find the leak that has damaged the walls in both the sanctuary and the vestry. He seems to think it is a broken pipe, which will require some investigation. Water leaks can be very tricky to isolate, but the one thing we know for sure is that water never runs uphill, so we know that the leak is somewhere high up in the building. Once it is found and fixed we will be able to repair the damage to the walls. It seems like the leaks never end, but we are trying to address the most serious problems before they get worse.

For now we will continue on the current path, and hope that spring is not just a date on the calendar!

*Steve Silverman
President*

Sisterhood President's Message

Here comes April, and Spring is finally here. As I'm writing this, we are enjoying some lovely weather. The last couple of days it has hit 60 degrees. Boy oh boy does it feel good. I hope this is a preview of coming attractions.

At this time, we are in the process of finishing up with our Passover menus. Matzoh, horseradish, brisket, fried chicken and jellies. I've made several versions of fried matzah and I love it.

I hope everyone who wants to get the Covid vaccine has been successful in securing it. Hopefully this will bring us some normalcy.

So, until next month, stay well and keep moving forward.

*Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President*

Temple Family

- Mazel Tov to Iris Katzman on the birth of her first grandchild, a little boy named Harry.
- Welcome to our newest returning member, Deborah Semine, daughter of the late Sylvia and Charles Zalkind.

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SERVICE SCHEDULE

April 2021: Nisan/Iyar 5781

Services will continue to be on Zoom.

Thursday, April 1 (19 Nisan)

Chol Hamo'ed Passover

Friday, April 2 (20 Nisan)

Chol Hamo'ed Passover

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Candle Lighting 6:54 pm

Saturday, April 3 (21 Nisan)

Passover- Seventh Day 10:00 am

Candle Lighting after 7:56 pm

Sunday, April 4 (22 Nisan)

Passover - Eighth Day 10:00 am

Yizkor approximately 11:45 am

Thursday, April 8 (26 Nisan)

Yom HaShoah 5:30 pm

(Holocaust Memorial Day)

Friday, April 9 (27 Nisan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Candle Lighting 7:02 pm

Saturday, April 10 (28 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Sh'mini 10:00 am

Monday, April 12 (30 Nisan)

Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Tuesday, April 13 (1 Iyar)

Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Wednesday, April 14 (2 Iyar)

Yom Ha'Zikaron

(Israel Memorial Day)

Thursday, April 15 (3 Iyar)

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut

(Israel Independence Day)

Friday, April 16 (4 Iyar)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Candle Lighting 7:09 pm

Saturday, April 17 (5 Iyar)

Weekly Portion: Tazria-Metzora 10:00 am

Friday, April 23 (11 Iyar)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Candle Lighting 7:17 pm

Saturday, April 24 (12 Iyar)

Weekly Portion: Akharei Mot-Kedoshim 10:00 am

Friday, April 30 (18 Iyar)

Lag Ba'Omer

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Candle Lighting 7:25 pm

TEMPLE OFFICE

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E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net
Website: frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

April 5 - April 13 (Marie's Vacation)
Emails and voicemails will be monitored regularly

TBE News & Notes

Please join us to observe **Yom HaShoah** (Holocaust Memorial Day) on **Thursday, April 8th (on Zoom) at 5:30 pm**. You will be receiving a link via email, or you may contact the Temple office to receive one if you somehow miss that communication.

At our Kabbalat Shabbat service on **Friday, April 16th** we will celebrate our "**Tribute to Israel**" in connection with **Yom HaAtzma'ut** (which falls this year on Thursday, April 15th). Please join us at the usual service time of 5:30 pm (on Zoom).

Monday morning adult education (10:30 - 12 noon, on Zoom): We recently completed Jonathan Hirsch's thought-provoking book, *The Harlot by the Side of the Road*, which we read hand in hand with the original (and surprising!) stories he focuses on from the Hebrew Bible. Our discussions were lively!

At present, we have embarked upon a virtual journey across Israel with the reading of **Amos Oz's** 1983 book of essays, *In the Land of Israel*. Although by the time you read this, we will have already begun, you can still jump on board at any time (contact the office for a link, and to find out where we are in the book). To paraphrase what one reviewer has written about this book:

Notebook in hand, Amos Oz traveled throughout Israel and the West Bank in the early 1980s to talk with workers, soldiers, religious zealots, aging pioneers, new immigrants, desperate Arabs, and visionaries, asking them questions. What he heard is set down here in those distinctive voices, alongside Oz's observations and reflections. A classic insider's view of a land with a complex past and challenging present and future.

Looking ahead...**Shavuot** begins on Sunday night, **May 16th**. As we did last year, we will hold a virtual (Zoom) **Tikkun (study session) from 8:00-9:30** that evening. Stay tuned for more details in next month's bulletin!

Thank you for your donations received through March 22nd

Yahrzeits

For the yearzeit of my beloved... Donated by:

Grandfather, Isaac Bolski	Norm Bolski
Elena Cohen	The Cohen/Novek Families
Mother, Edna Dashoff	Gene Paranzino
Mother, Regina Elber	Mark Elber
Son, Jonathan Entin	Jeffrey Entin
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Father, Arthur Littman	Ken Littman & Family
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Mother, Rita Minkin	Libby Cohen
Parents, Helen & Louis Nulman	Sybil Michelson
Aunt, Rose Oscar	Judith Markowitz
Parents, Rose & Philip Ostroff	Rhoda Falkow
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Father, Milton Weissman	Jeffrey Weissman
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For the yearzeit of my beloved father-in-law, Ben Goodman
 For the yearzeit of my beloved uncle, Max V. Silverman
 Sumner Alpert

CAPITAL FUND

- In honor of Bill Chebot's 79th anniversary of his bar mitzvah
Carl & Irma Feldman
- In honor of Charlie Stampler's 106th birthday
Norm & Anita Bolski
- In honor of the birth of Iris Katzman's grandson
The Winokoors
- In memory of our good friend, Ab Ehrenhaus
The Winokoors
- In memory of Muriel Feldman
Sylvia Eisner
- In memory of Susan Gottlieb
Norm & Anita Bolski
- For the recovery of Aaron Reynolds
- For the recovery of my grandsons, Camden & Tyler Nadeau
Sylvia Eisner

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of my beloved father, Abraham Ehrenhaus
Leah Ehrenhaus Hersh

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In memory of Judy Berg
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 For the recovery of Fran Cohen
 Bill Chebot

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- Stephen Silverman.....President
- Libby Cohen.....Secretary
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- Libby Cohen.....Sisterhood Pres.
- William E. Kaufman.....Rabbi Emeritus

College Scholarships

Scholarships are available to all students residing in the greater Fall River area.

Applications are available in the Temple office and should be completed by the student and returned as soon as possible.



The Scholarship Committee must have scholarship applications in hand by June 15, 2021

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Our website is constantly changing, so be sure to check it out regularly. There are links to articles written by Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana, updated service schedules and upcoming events. You can also see the bulletin there first, especially if you live outside the greater Fall River area! Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

YAHARZEITS

4/1/2021 19 Nisan 5781
Rabbi Moshe Babin
Abraham Fradkin
Max Simring

4/2/2021 20 Nisan 5781
Revelyn Baron
Irene Zwetchkenbaum

4/3/2021 21 Nisan 5781
Melvin Belford
Jacob Joseph Thaler
Hyman Udovin

4/4/2021 22 Nisan 5781
Morris Phillips

4/5/2021 23 Nisan 5781
Rebecca Gerstenzang
Geraldine Kesselman

4/6/2021 24 Nisan 5781
Hon. Aileen Belford
Susan Entin
Richard Shuman

4/8/2021 26 Nisan 5781
Sally Cohen
Philip Sacknoff
Stanley Scher

4/10/2021 28 Nisan 5781
Jack Resnick
Isadore Saxe

4/11/2021 29 Nisan 5781
Myrna Resnick
Lillian Schwartz
Robert Sonion

4/13/2021 1 Iyar 5781
Norman Chebot
Irving Smith
Edwin Solup

4/15/2021 3 Iyar 5781
Annie Cohen
Ruth Filler

4/16/2021 4 Iyar 5781
Gilbert Nerenberg
Irving Zukroff

4/18/2021 6 Iyar 5781
Estelle Hyman
David Lash
Melvin Lash
Lillian H. Levin
Seymour H. Sugarman

4/19/2021 7 Iyar 5781
Carlton Dubitsky
Jason Sigal

4/20/2021 8 Iyar 5781
Irving Kline

4/23/2021 11 Iyar 5781
Annette Horowitz
Armin Minkin

4/24/2021 12 Iyar 5781
Frank Feldman
Harold Weiss

4/25/2021 13 Iyar 5781
Lew Jill
Marjory Packer

4/26/2021 14 Iyar 5781
Emma Loeff Dondis
Charles Reback

4/27/2021 15 Iyar 5781
Bessie Cohen
Paul Greenberg
Anna Kuperschmid

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Dr. David Prial

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