

TEMPLE BETH EL

Fall River, Massachusetts



86th Year

December 2014

Kislev/Tevet 5775

No. 4

Regular Service Schedule

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am
 First Friday Evening Service (1st Friday of each month)6:30 pm
 Friday Evening Services (All other Fridays).....5:30 pm
 Shabbat Morning Services.....10:00 am



Yoken Memorial Breakfast

Sunday, December 14th

*In Memory of Judith A. Yoken and
Albert Benjamin and Sylvia S. Yoken*

Service at 9 am, followed by breakfast
and presentation at 10 am



"Who Writes Letters Anymore?"

The Art of Autograph/Manuscript Collecting

presented by Dr. Mel Yoken & Steve Yoken

Please RSVP to the Temple office by Monday, December 8th.

CHANUKAH PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST 1:30 PM
LUNCH SERVED PROMPTLY AT 2:00 PM

CANDLE LIGHTING AT 4:00 PM

Join us for Temple Beth El's annual Chanukah Party in the Vestry
No Charge for Temple Members, Adas Israel Members, Children & Grandchildren

Entertainment provided by our Hebrew School students.

Festive and Fun! Come One, Come All!

Reservations a MUST - please RSVP by Wednesday, Dec 17th.



A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

The Times They Are a-Changin'

As you all know by now, my daughter Mira Gutoff was married at the end of October in San Francisco. Her new husband's name is Stefan Beeman. I want to thank all who have expressed their loving wishes and congratulations on their marriage; I was very touched by your graciousness—especially since most of you have never met Mira, since she was already a college graduate and had moved to San Francisco by the time that Mark, Lev and I came to Fall River. So I will tell you a little about Mira and Stefan and about their wedding.

Mira graduated from Bennington College in 2012, having majored in theater and psychology. Stefan was a year ahead of Mira at Bennington, and is now prospering in the field of internet technology. The SF/Silicon Valley area is the best place in the world to be for opportunities in this field, and luckily, Mira also loves the Bay area. Mira writes a blog on fashion, books and movies, does some freelance work helping other people with their blog-sites, and is currently at work on her second novel. When I went out to California last June, I got to see Mira in a 15-minute short “bio-pic” about the first African-American film maker, Oscar Micheaux, at the San Francisco Black Film Festival (Mira played the part of Micheaux's white lover, a relationship that he returned to off and on throughout his life.)

Mira is the daughter of my first marriage, and, like Lev, also a rabbi's kid. So, you might think, with a rabbi for a father, a cantor for a mother, and another rabbi for a stepfather, Mira would be steeped in Judaism. On the cultural and emotional level, this is true. But since part of what growing up is about is differentiating yourself from your parents, it was not surprising to me that Mira had to go her own way, finding her own sources of meaning and exploring the world of the spirit, which she has done through drama, literature and film. And although Stefan is not Jewish, I am so thankful that the two of them found one another, for they are both one-of-a-kind souls, uniquely suited to appreciate, love, and support one another. This was so apparent to all present at their wedding, which was beautifully performed by Rabbi Chaya Gusfield, who managed to include Stefan and his family in what was by and large a very “Jewish” wedding—which was what Mira wanted (and to which Stefan, a self-proclaimed atheist, had no objections). I can attest that the non-“tribe”-members felt very included in this celebration, as my own mother (an Episcopalian) said that it was “the most beautiful wedding she had ever experienced.”

Mom and I had a big job at the wedding: doing the flowers! On Thursday and Friday before the wedding, we were at the San Francisco Flower Mart (fantastic!), buying flowers, vases, ribbons, pumpkins, gourds, and even boughs of oak leaves. We had a blast! Thankfully, our friends Rabbi

Tsvi Bar-David and his wife Ilana were hosting us at their house, so the Saturday night preceding the big event found their kitchen counter covered with greens and petals, as we worked on the arrangements that we would transport to the wedding site on Sunday. Mark's brother Erwin and his wife Bonnie were staying at a motel one block away from us, so on Shabbat we could all stroll together in Sutro Heights Park along the Pacific in sight of the Golden Gate Bridge. At the wedding itself I was delighted to re-connect with my old Talmud-study partner from my graduate student days at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi Abby Cohen (Abby had helped Mira find Rabbi Gusfield). And to top it all off, while we were out there, the SF Giants were busy winning the World Series!

After the wedding, Mark and Lev returned to Fall River, but Mom and I took a 3-day trip down to Big Sur. As I had mentioned in my Rosh haShanah sermon, I was afraid that this might be the last “big” trip that Mom and I would take together. (And indeed, one week after she got home, my mother had another “incident” with her hip-replacement—thank goodness it did not happen out there!) Space does not permit me to describe this trip adequately (but I hope Marie can find space for one of my Big Sur photos!), but suffice it to say that the scenery, the weather, and the food all outdid one another. Mom loved it all, and I was so glad that I had taken the time out to take this trip with her after the wedding. If you have never been to Big Sur, I urge you to do it the next time you go to the West Coast!

They say “you can never step in the same river twice,” and *time* is like this river, always moving, always changing. The births, the bar/bat mitzvah celebrations, the weddings, and alas, the funerals we mark remind us that we can never stop the flow. My esteemed teacher, Reb Zalman z”l used to say to God, “*Ribbono shel Olam*, I am going to do my best to give you a good ride as Zalman today!” Since we cannot stop it, the best we can do is to “go with the flow”—living as meaningfully, exuberantly, graciously and mercifully as we can, loving one another and all of God's creation. As we head into the darkest time of the year, let us kindle not only the lights of Chanukah, but our *inner* lights of *thankfulness* for the miracle of existence, for our ringside seats at this festival of light which is all of life and creation.

Wishing you all a *Chag Urim Sameach*,
Shoshana



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sisterhood President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This time of year is always such a reminder to be thankful for all we have, most especially those we hold dear to our hearts. Each year that my family is able to gather at our home for Thanksgiving I consider it a true blessing. All the delicious food is just a bonus.

Looking back at November, I would like to thank everyone who helped us bring back the Ruderman Weekend in style. From the special services with Rabbi Tsvi Bar-David to the fabulous lecture by Dr. David Logan, to the terrific spread organized by Sisterhood, the whole weekend was a tremendous success, and I look forward to seeing what future Ruderman weekends will bring to our Temple family. Thank you to all who helped pull it together, especially Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark, who did such a wonderful job of organizing everything from soup to nuts.

I also want to take this opportunity to publically acknowledge and thank both George Haire and Carlton Smith for all their hard work in November. Tom Gregory was gone for the month on a well-deserved vacation, so all of the set-up, breakdown, and much of the cooking and clean-up fell on the able shoulders of George and Carlton, not only for the Ruderman weekend but also for the meal of consolation after Dr. Greer's funeral. Once again it is a reminder of what a wonderful team we have supporting our efforts here at Temple Beth El...yet one more thing for which to be thankful.

Next up is our annual Chanukah party -- please RSVP and plan to come and join us. I understand that part of our entertainment will be provided by our Hebrew school students. I hope you all agree that it is wonderful to have children in our midst once again. If so, please make a point to come and support them, and celebrate the holiday together.

On page 7 of this bulletin are two short articles about two special members of our congregation, Dr. Herb Rubin and our dearly departed Dr. Dave Greer. Both upstanding men, trailblazing doctors, committed to the betterment of their communities. How fortunate we are to have had such remarkable leaders in our Temple family for so many years.

As the next bulletin won't arrive until after New Year's Day, I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015.

Steve Silverman
President

Dear Members,

As I pen this article, I'm in the midst of preparing for Thanksgiving. This is one holiday that all Americans celebrate. It's all about giving thanks for the many things we are lucky enough to have and enjoy. I hope that all of you had a wonderful day.

On Wednesday, December 10th, at 10:30 am the Book Club will be meeting to review our latest read, Lizzie Borden, the Girl with the Pansy Pin. The author, Michael Thomas Brimbau, will be here to discuss his book with us. It promises to be an interesting morning. Please make it a priority to join us. Check out our website to see a list of all the books our club has read and discussed, as well as a picture from one of our latest meetings. Our club is growing!

At this time we are busy planning our annual Chanukah party. It is being held on Sunday, December 21st at 1:30 pm. Please make a reservation and attend. Just think, "latkes, latkes, yum, yum, yum." We will listen to some lively music and enjoy a good meal. Then at 4 pm we will light the menorah together. What a lovely way to celebrate the holiday.

So until next month, Shalom.

Libby Cohen,
Sisterhood President

IN MEMORIAM

DR. DAVID GREER

NOVEMBER 18, 2014 – CHESHVAN 25, 5775

MAY HIS MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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Michael D. Smith
Licensed Funeral Director

SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 2014: Kislev/Tevet 5775

Friday, December 5 (13 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 3:56 pm
Shabbat Service 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 6 (14 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayishlach 10:00 am

Friday, December 12 (20 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 3:56 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 13 (21 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Veyeshev 10:00 am

Tuesday, December 16 (24 Kislev)

Erev Chanukah
Light first Chanukah candle

Wednesday, December 17 (25 Kislev)

Chanukah – First Day
Light second Chanukah candle

Thursday, December 18 (26 Kislev)

Chanukah – Second Day
Light third Chanukah candle

Friday, December 19 (27 Kislev)

Chanukah – Third Day
Light 4th Chanukah candle before Shabbat candles
Candle Lighting 3:58 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 20 (28 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Miketz 10:00 am
Chanukah – Fourth Day
Light fifth Chanukah candle after Shabbat ends

Sunday, December 21 (29 Kislev)

Chanukah – Fifth Day
Light sixth Chanukah candle

Monday, December 22 (30 Kislev)

Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Chanukah – Sixth Day
Light seventh Chanukah candle

Tuesday, December 23 (1 Tevet)

Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Chanukah – Seventh Day
Light eighth Chanukah candle

Wednesday, December 24 (2 Tevet)

Chanukah – Eighth Day

Friday, December 26 (4 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 4:02 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 27 (5 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayigash 10:00 am

TEMPLE OFFICE

385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720
Tel: (508) 674-3529 Fax: (508) 678-6735
E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net
Website: frtemplebethel.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

Office Closed:

Thursday, December 25 – School Closed
Friday, December 26 - School Closed
Thursday, January 1 – New Year's Day

Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.

385 High Street, Fall River, MA 02720
Tel: (508) 673-7791 Fax: (508) 678-6735
e-mail: fruja@comcast.net

Office Hours: Monday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

Friendly Visitor: Jackie Gedacht is ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.

Senior Center: (at the Fall River Jewish Home)

Open 5 days a week for lunch...Kosher and delicious. For reservations/cancellations call the Nutrition Office at (508) 324-4619 or (800) 293-8943 before 1:30 pm on the previous business day before you want to reserve or cancel.

Temple Family

- Our sincere condolences to Linda Monchik on the loss of her beloved father, Dr. Charles Burden
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. David Greer.
- Welcome to our newest members, Robert Falconero and his daughter, Marcie Nawi.

SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

Cemetery Monuments and Lettering

Jeffrey Weissman

Partner

59 Greenlawn Street
Fall River
Massachusetts 02720

(508) 676-0335
(508) 730-7104 cell
(508) 679-9704 fax
jeffnjan11@comcast.net



Cantor Shoshana's Month in Review:

November was a busy month!

On Nov. 5th, **Cantor Shoshana** spoke on "**A Jewish Approach to Prayer for Real Life,**" as a part of the "Lifetime Learning" series (organized by Pastor Don Mier) at the Bay View Independent Living Community. The lecture was attended by seniors of all faiths and very much appreciated.

The Rabbi Ruderman Memorial Weekend (Nov. 7-9) was a wonderful success, with 2 guest teachers:

Rabbi Tsvi Bar-David, of San Francisco, taught at the Kabbalat Shabbat Service, and at a Se'udah Shlisheet-Havdalah gathering at the rabbi's and cantor's home. His topic was "**Ecstatic Prayer and the Teachings of the Ba'al Shem Tov.**"

On Sunday Nov. 7th, **Dr. James Logan** spoke at the **Ruderman Breakfast**. His topic was "**Israel: 4,000 Years in 45 Minutes.**" He was a wonderful speaker, we had a grand turnout, and a good time was had by all.

Our Temple Beth El **Chai Mitzvah Cohort** was launched on Sat. night, Nov. 15th. These four individuals, two of them new TBE members, will be studying with the cantor and rabbi monthly for approximately one year to deepen their Jewish identity and practice of mitzvot. We applaud their enthusiasm and willingness to take on a deeper commitment to Jewish life. *If there are any other members who would like to join our **Chai Mitzvah** group, please contact the Temple Beth El Office soon—the window on this opportunity will be closing soon!*

On Tuesday, Nov. 18th, **Rabbi Mark** taught in the adult learning session "Afternoon Delights," (organized by Pastor Don Mier). His topic was "**An Introduction to Kabbalah.**" The learning and discussion were lively.

Rabbi Mark has begun a new **Tuesday evening (6:30) Beginning Hebrew Class!** Please feel free to join. Contact the Office for further information.

On Friday, Nov. 28th, the **Rev. Matthew Stewart of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit** (on Rock St.) was a **guest preacher at our Kabbalat Shabbat service** at TBE. Rev. Stewart has become a good friend and study-colleague of the rabbi and cantor, and we were so happy to welcome him into our community.

Ways that you can Repair the World:

- Please contact the Temple Office if you are willing to **help deliver holiday meals** for homeless families (living in temporary housing in area motels) on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day so that they can have a holiday free from hunger.
- Please keep bringing in those **cans of tuna**, jars of mayo and can openers for the area homeless families.
- Please keep bringing in **warm winter clothing** that you no longer need—there is a great need especially for winter coats!
- **Chanukah Gelt:** the best kind of "Chanukah Gelt" is the kind you *give to those in need*. For many families, December is the month when they empty their *tzedakah* boxes, or write checks, donating to their favorite charities (it is your last chance to make these tax-deductible donations before the calendar year's end). Consider making this a Hanukkah tradition in your family!

SHEMA YISRAEL: LISTEN, ISRAEL!

We welcome Marilyn Sokoll, the first of our TBE community to "speak" in this new forum in our monthly Bulletin. Shema Yisrael is intended to be a vehicle for congregants to speak up about what is meaningful to them in our congregational life. We hope that, if something you read here intrigues you to try a new activity at TBE, or to re-connect with Jewish community or Jewish practice, you will not hesitate, but will give it a try! If you would like to make your own voice heard (in under 400 words) in this forum, please contact the Temple Beth El office.

MARILYN SOKOLL

What is there about my attending Shabbat services that supports and strengthens my Jewish identity?

Surely, my command of Hebrew, which is non-existent, doesn't contribute to the effort that I make to show up. It's beyond that. I need to be part of our small Jewish community. In doing so I get to chant with our Rabbi and Cantor, learn in the lively discussions about the Torah portion of the week, and support the Temple. It's amazing, in just ten minutes or so, how deep the discussions can get. What a treasury of wisdom we have in the Torah and its commentaries! It's good to be a Jew!

The bulletin of Temple Beth El (USPS-075-340) is published monthly from September to June for \$1.00 per year by Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA. Periodicals postage paid at Fall River, MA. POSTMASTERS, send address changes to Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA 02720-3348.

Thank you for your donations received through November 21, 2014

Yahrzeits

For the yearzeit of my beloved... Donated by:
Mother, Ida Appel
Mother, Bessie Bolski
Grandfather, Jacob Brown
Husband, Norman Cohen
Mother, Lillian Feinberg
Father, Samuel Friedman
Mother, Ida Horvitz
Father, Erwin Juda
Grandfather, Isadore Juda
Father, Samuel Lechan
Father, Louis Levin
Mother, Betty Rosenberg
Father, Nathan Silk
Mother, Yetta Sludsky
Father, David Somer
Mother, Anna Zalkind

Maurice Alpert Memorial Endowment Fund

For the yearzeit of my beloved grandmother, Libbie Alpert Sumner Alpert

Rabbi Moshe Babin Memorial Fund

For the yearzeit of my beloved mother, Lillian Klein Helen Babin

Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

In honor of Dr. Herbert Rubin for his 50 years as ophthalmologist at Truesdale Health
In memory of Dr. Charles Burdan
For the recovery of Beth Ann Bark
Bill Chebot

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In honor of the marriage of Mira Gutoff to Stefan Beeman
Hannah Evans
Marilyn Sokoll
Anita & Norm Bolski

Capital Fund

In honor of our father, Carlton Dubitsky, celebrating his 100th birthday
Louise & Lake Polan
In memory of Dr. Charles Burden
Anne Griffin
Lorraine Kaplan
In memory of Marion Greer
Sheila & Daniel Gittelman
In memory of Evelyn Robinovitz
Louise & Lake Polan
In memory of Evelyn Robinovitz
Dr. & Mrs. Harry Lechan
Louise & Lake Polan

IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Capt. Bertram Udovin celebrating a special birthday
For the yearzeit of our beloved grandmother, Sadie Smith
Judith & Frank Kosofsky
In memory of Stephen Mitchell
In memory of Winifred Murray
Ann & Bob Chavenson

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Dr. Charles Burden
Hannah Evans

DR. & MRS. N. KENNETH SHAND BUILDING RESTORATION FUND

In memory of Ruth Shand
Anna Lepes

LEADERSHIP

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Members in the News: Two Noteworthy Men, Two Leading Doctors in our Community

David S. Greer, a doctor who co-founded a group that won the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize for working to prevent nuclear war and who helped transform the medical school at Brown University, died Nov. 18 at his home in Fall River, Mass. He was 89.



Dr. Greer, Brown's dean of medicine from 1981 to 1992, was a founding director of the Nobel-winning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

In awarding Dr. Greer's Boston-based organization the peace prize, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said it had "performed a considerable service to mankind by spreading authoritative information and by creating an awareness of the catastrophic consequences of atomic warfare."

"His mantra was that medical students had to be science-savvy but socially responsible physicians, and his own career in Fall River and Rhode Island were exemplary of that," said David Lewis, who worked with Dr. Greer to establish a center for alcohol and addiction studies at Brown.

Note: This excerpt is from The Washington Post, by the Associated Press. For a link to the full article, please visit our website.

Dr. Herbert S. Rubin, an ophthalmologist at the Center for Eye Health at Truesdale Health, was presented with a citation and key to the city in honor of his 50 years of practicing medicine.



Rubin was honored by his colleagues and Mayor Will Flanagan at Truesdale Health's 100 anniversary celebration at the Cultural Center downtown on November 1st.

When Rubin began his career at Truesdale in 1964, it was a small clinic with just 23 physicians on staff, but it was about to grow. It has expanded through the decades and today boasts more than 70 practicing physicians with subspecialty expertise in multiple medical disciplines, all under one roof.

"My hope is that Truesdale Health, with its active commitment to bring excellently trained physicians to its site, will continue its roll of leadership in the medical community," Rubin said. "It has been a privilege to care for the sincere hard-working residents in the Greater Fall River area."

Mazel tov Herb!

Note: This excerpt is from the Herald News. For a link to the full article, please visit our website.

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Chanukah begins Tuesday, Dec. 16th!

We have a new and unique selection of designer Judaica jewelry that is both beautiful and reasonably priced, along with a nice variety of Chanukah gifts, including:

- *Regular and electric menorahs
- *Candles
- *Wooden dreidels
- *Family games
- *Gift bags, tags, and money holder cards.

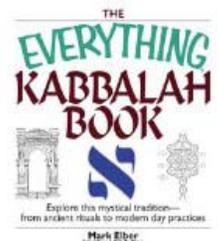


I am available every Monday before 10:30 am and after 12 noon. If you would like to browse any weekday morning, do call or email me to schedule and appointment.

Hannah R. Evans
Phone: 508-674-2505
Email: hannahbecky@comcast.net

Also Available in Our Gift Shop:

The Everything Kabbalah Book, written by Rabbi Mark Elber, is now available in the gift shop. Pick up your copy any weekday morning for just \$12.



Also available are our new Temple Beth El notecards. Each set of 12 comes with an assortment of images on the front, including the front of the temple, the dome, the stained glass windows, and more. The insides of the cards are blank. The cost is just \$10 for a dozen beautiful multi-purpose cards.



All Photos courtesy of Cantor Shoshana

These feature her time in California - the wedding of her daughter, Mira, the flower arrangements and tablescapes she and her mother created for the wedding (with Lev in the background using his iPad), and a photo of her mother, Patricia Fitzgerald, hiking in Big Sur.



**Rabbi Samuel & Tillie Ruderman Shabbaton-Weekend
November 7th, 8th & 9th**



WEBSITE UPDATES:

Links to newspaper articles about
Dr. David Greer and Dr. Herb Rubin.

Book Club list of books read

Info about "Facing History & Ourselves"

Be sure to check the site regularly: frtemplebethel.org

YAHARZEITS

12/1/2014 Kislev 9, 5775

Tillie Ruderman
Frieda Wiener

12/2/2014 Kislev 10, 5775

Edward Adaskin
Julius Grozen
Eric Lawson

12/4/2014 Kislev 12, 5775

Harry A. Gourse
Sadie Katersky

12/5/2014 Kislev 13, 5775

David Cohen

12/6/2014 Kislev 14, 5775

Hattie Caplain

12/8/2014 Kislev 16, 5775

David Shapiro

12/9/2014 Kislev 17, 5775

Sylvia T. Reback

12/10/2014 Kislev 18, 5775

Max Reiser

12/12/2014 Kislev 20, 5775

Bess Levin

12/13/2014 Kislev 21, 5775

Harry Berger
William Falk

12/14/2014 Kislev 22, 5775

Hummy Chebot

12/15/2014 Kislev 23, 5775

Alice Helfanbein
Hyman Schwartz
Elizabeth Beryl Waksler
Donna Ann Wolfson

12/17/2014 Kislev 25, 5775

Sidney Bogorad

12/18/2014 Kislev 26, 5775

Henry William Juda
Phyllis Nerenberg
Samuel Rotenberg
Julius Simpson

12/19/2014 Kislev 27, 5775

Shirley Resnick

12/20/2014 Kislev 28, 5775

David Kotlen
Dr. Henry Lustig
Bernard Miller

12/21/2014 Kislev 29, 5775

Ada Haims
Robert Lipson

12/22/2014 Kislev 30, 5775

Abraham D. Becker

12/23/2014 Tevet 1, 5775

Sanford Litchman
Alfred Pistreich
Grace Snyder
Rose Tallman

12/24/2014 Tevet 2, 5775

Sarah R. Katzman

12/25/2014 Tevet 3, 5775

William Gittelman
Milton Elis Raffel

12/26/2014 Tevet 4, 5775

Isaac Schwartz
Jacob Yamins

12/28/2014 Tevet 6, 5775

Mae Berman

12/29/2014 Tevet 7, 5775

Frances Fradkin
Pauline Rudolph
Selma Sokoll

12/30/2014 Tevet 8, 5775

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