

The Bulletin of

# TEMPLE BETH EL

Fall River, Massachusetts



88th Year

February 2016

Shevat/Adar I 5776

No. 6

## 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

## *Purim is coming!*

Save the date for our Megillah Reading and Post-Reading Entertainment:  
 Politicians on the Roof,  
 A Comic Purim Musical Send-up of the Presidential Nominees' Race

Megillah Reading will begin at 5 pm on Wednesday, March 23rd  
 Please see the March bulletin for further information!



# Politicians

# on the Roof



A message from our Spiritual Leader,  
Cantor Shoshana Brown  
“Tell the Truth!”

Writing these words in the middle of January, we have just celebrated Martin Luther King Day—both at the Temple and with the wider community at Bristol Community College. I am looking forward to our Tu biShevat Seder near the end of January (weather permitting!), and to our celebration of Purim in March. But February is a “lonely” month this Jewish year, graced by no Jewish holidays (Valentine’s Day not being one of ours). Yet, like Martin Luther King Day which belongs not to any one religious community, but to the whole country, the end of February brings a “ritual” which many Jews, along with their Gentile neighbors, look forward to observing. I am talking about the event which this year will take place on Sunday, February 28th: the 88th Academy Awards.

But first, I do want to mention our TBE Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat. In addition to taking this as an occasion to sing prayers like *Mi Khamokha* to the tune of “Sing Low Sweet Chariot,” and *Adon Olam* to “Go Down Moses,” both Shabbat services included the eloquent and powerful words of Dr. King and also of his close colleague Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. On Shabbat morning, after study of the Torah portion, we had an engaging discussion of excerpts from the speeches and/or writings of both Dr. King and Rabbi Heschel. Taken together, their words ably took the place of the Haftarah for that day, for truly they were prophets in their generation.

Now—to return to the subject of “the movies”: one reason that Jews have loved watching the Oscars, and reveling in the fun of the world of the cinema, is that since film’s inception, we have been such an overly-represented *part* of that world, whether as actors, directors, producers, screenwriters, or composers of film scores. American films in particular have excelled in championing the underdog, addressing injustices and celebrating heroes who dare to challenge the status quo. And because we have been so much part and parcel of the film business, we have not been shy about depicting our own culture on the screen. On Sunday, January 17th, about 17 of us gathered at the Temple to watch “Crossing Delancey.” It was a joy to watch such a *very* Jewish film in a room full of Jews; we delighted in its scenes of the Lower East Side, with its Judaica and pickle stores. We laughed together when the heroine’s parents called her from Florida on her birthday—so that her father and his barbershop quartet of friends could sing her “Happy Birthday” in four-part harmony over the phone! In the middle of a scene of near-seduction by a handsome but manipulative novelist, we all yelled at the heroine together “get out of there!” We

would have been furious with her if she missed her date with “Sam the pickle man.”

Film, like theater (and worship) can bring us together. But the “ritual” that so many of us observe on the night of the “Oscars” is spoiled for me this year. For the second year in a row, no actors of color have been nominated for any of the Academy Awards for acting. Last year it was Selma’s star David Oyelowo (so powerfully depicting Martin Luther King) who was flagrantly snubbed, and this year quite a number of great African-American actors. I will only speak, however, of the one whose work I have actually seen, and that was *Concussion*’s Will Smith in his role as Dr. Bennet Omalu, the real-life Nigerian forensic pathologist who worked as a coroner in Pittsburgh, and who discovered the scandal of the prevalence of CTE – Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy - in former professional football players. Smith’s performance of the Nigerian doctor was absolutely riveting. I simply cannot understand how the Academy failed to put his name forward for a nomination: I can only surmise that either too many members of the Academy were afraid of offending the National Football League, or that the overwhelmingly white Academy is still, in 2016, blinded by prejudice.

Have we traveled no further than this since the death of Dr. Martin Luther King? Do we still allow the biggest bullies on the block to have all the power? One scene in particular that stirred me was the confrontation of Dr. Omalu with one of the NFL-sponsored doctors who had conducted “tests” to see if the type of head injuries typical in football could have long-term deleterious effects on the brain. Being in the pocket of the NFL as this doctor was, he concluded that there was no reason to worry about brain injuries from football. Omalu knew that this was a lie; he did not know that he was supposed to cower before the might of the NFL. He challenges this doctor:

“If you continue to deny my work, the world will deny my work. But men—*your* men—continue to die, their families left in ruins...Tell the truth!...Tell the truth!”

Alas, the lack of courage to *tell the truth* is all-too prevalent in public (and especially political!) discourse. The Torah commands us, however, *Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor* (Lev. 19:16). Dr. King and Dr. Omalu were both men of tremendous faith, courage, and integrity. I believe that Will Smith deserves an Oscar for his brilliant depiction of Omalu’s courage to always tell the truth. So whether you watch the Oscars or not, I urge you to see *Concussion*, which, as a story of a man who faithfully spoke out on behalf of the “blood of his neighbor” is a very “Jewish” movie!

Shalom,

*Cantor Shoshana*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a very busy autumn, the Temple is now fairly quiet, but things continue much as normal, despite the recent fall of snow. We were lucky to dodge the worst of the winter storm known as Jonas, so there is still reasonable parking on the street, and our regular services and classes continue to roll along.

A recent event that was attended by Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana brought something important to mind. Many of you may not be aware of the countless things our spiritual leaders do in the community. They regularly visit our friends at the Jewish Home and the local hospitals. They frequently write columns for both the Herald News and the Jewish Voice. If you don't get the newspaper, go to our website and click on "Links to Articles" to see what you have missed. They also represent Temple Beth El at a plethora of special events, the most recent being a breakfast at BCC on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There was a wonderful write-up about it in the Herald, making mention of both Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark. We are fortunate to be so well-represented in our community by our caring, thoughtful and intelligent leaders. So much of what they do is behind the scenes, but what they do is so very important, whether it is speaking at a public function, serving on the Board of Rabbis, singing a hymn at a special event, raising awareness of local and global issues, or simply offering solace to a shut-in. Please join me in thanking both Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana for all they do...both out in the community and within our temple walls. At times things may seem quiet around here, but their schedules are filled to bursting all year long.

We are working on some interesting speakers for upcoming Sunday breakfasts, but we have decided to wait until spring so that the difficulties that can arise in winter are not an issue. More news to follow.

We have contracted with someone to repair much of the interior damage caused by the leaks in the towers, to restore everything to its former glory. What a project this has been! Again, I thank all of you who have so generously donated to the Tower Project. We couldn't have done it without you.

Lastly, please join me in wishing Lev Elber a very happy 13th birthday. If you haven't seen him in a while, look up -- he has sprouted and grown into a handsome young man right before our eyes. We look forward to his bar mitzvah in early June. Details to follow!

*Steve Silverman*  
President

*Sisterhood President's Message*


Well here I sit watching the snow fall, just thinking the days are getting longer and Spring is just around the corner. Today is the kind of day just meant for cooking and baking. So I hope everyone took advantage of this time, and just sat back and enjoyed it.

We will be planning for Purim and Passover in the upcoming weeks. As we have more information, you will be notified. Watch your e-mails and bulletins, as they will have the up-to-date info.

On Wednesday, February 10th, at 10:30 am, the Book Club will meet in the Temple library to discuss their latest read, "Orphan #8" by Kim van Alkemade. You still have time to pick it up and start reading. I think you will find it very interesting. Please plan to join us for a pleasant morning.

So until next month, Shalom.

*Libby Cohen*  
Sisterhood President



## THE TOWER PROJECT

*Thank you for your donations!*

**Ann Freedman**  
*in honor of Steve Silverman*

**Sheila Freedman**  
*in memory of aunt, Bessie Gladstone*

**Lisa Kusinitz**  
*in memory of husband, Stewart Kusinitz*

**Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Lechan**  
*in memory of beloved parents*

**Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wolfson**

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**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**February 2016  
Shevat/Adar I 5776**

<u>Friday, February 5 (26 Shevat)</u>	
Candle Lighting	4:47 pm
Shabbat Service	6:30 pm
<u>Saturday, February 6 (27 Shevat)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Mishpatim	10:00 am
<u>Tuesday, February 9 (30 Shevat)</u>	
Rosh Chodesh Adar I	
<u>Wednesday, February 10 (1 Adar I)</u>	
Rosh Chodesh Adar I	
<u>Friday, February 12 (3 Adar I)</u>	
Candle Lighting	4:56 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, February 13 (4 Adar I)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Terumah	10:00 am
<u>Friday, February 19 (10 Adar I)</u>	
Candle Lighting	5:05 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, February 20 (11 Adar I)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Tetzaveh	10:00 am
<u>Friday, February 26 (17 Adar I)</u>	
Candle Lighting	5:13 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, February 27 (18 Adar I)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Ki Tisa	10:00 am

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**LEADERSHIP**

Mark Elber.....	Rabbi
Shoshana Brown.....	Cantor
Stephen Silverman.....	President
Jeffrey Entin.....	Vice President
Libby Cohen.....	Secretary
William Chebot.....	Treasurer
Libby Cohen.....	Sisterhood Pres.
William E. Kaufman.....	Rabbi Emeritus

*Donations received through January 21, 2016*

**Yahrzeits**

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

<b>Mother in law, Sarah Belford</b>	Virginia Belford
<b>Father, David Cohen</b>	Meryl & Barry Novek
<b>Mother, Ruth Gerard</b>	Jay Gerard
<b>Mother, Rebecca Gerstenzang</b>	Burton Gerstenzang
<b>Father, William Gittelman</b>	Finbar Gittelman
<b>Brother, Sidney Goldman</b>	Sylvia Zalkind
<b>Mother, Ada Haims</b>	Paula Rubin
<b>Father, Joseph Horowitz</b>	Herbert Horowitz
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<b>Parents, Irving &amp; Lillian Kline</b>	Sheldon Kline
<b>Mother, Rose Moss</b>	Shirley Taradash
<b>Father, Charles Novek</b>	Meryl & Barry Novek
<b>Mother, Birdie Phillips</b>	Frances Cohen
<b>Mother in law, Mary Reiser</b>	Hilda Reiser
<b>Father, Charles Rosenberg</b>	Richard Rosenberg
<b>Mother, Anna Schaffer</b>	Donna Walters
<b>Mother, Paula Shuman</b>	Peter Lex Shuman
<b>Husband, Nathan Silk</b>	Carol Silk
<b>Parents, Caroline &amp; Harry Spiro</b>	Vivian & Lionel Spiro
<b>Parents, Caroline &amp; Harry Spiro</b>	Leah & Bob Rukeyser
<b>Mother, Mildred Trieff</b>	Richard Trieff
<b>Mother in law, Fannie Woloshin</b>	Charles Stampler

**CAPITAL FUND**

- In honor of Bill Chebot on his "Bar Mitvah"**  
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Rubin
- In memory of Edith Gold**  
Blanche & Norman Somer
- For the recovery of Jerry Baskin**  
Anita & Norm Bolski

**THE MARCIE NAWI & ROBERT FALCONERO  
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- In honor of Bob (Aryeh) Falconero and his daughter,  
Marcie Nawi becoming "members of the tribe"**  
Bill Chebot
- In memory of our beloved parents**  
Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Lechan

**SYLVIA S. & ALBERT B. YOKEN  
MEMORIAL FUND**

- In honor of Judy Barry**
- In memory of Hy & Ethel Bernstein**
- In memory of Dr. Clint Levin**
- For the yahrzeit of Arline Alpert**  
Cindy & Dr. Mel Yoken

**TEMPLE OFFICE**  
(508) 674-3529

templebethel@comcast.net frtemplebethel.org  
Closed: Monday, February 15th - Presidents' Day

## TBE News & Notes

Calling brave singers for our Purim Musical Re-  
vue, "Politicians on the Roof!" You don't have to be  
able to carry a tune terribly far--you just have to be  
able to project your voice and have a good sense of  
humor (there will be a piano player to help you)!  
Minimal rehearsal necessary. If you are willing to  
participate, get in touch with Cantor Shoshana at  
cantorshoshana@gmail.com, or leave her a mes-  
sage at the Temple office.

All TBE women have been invited to a Women's  
Community Seder at Temple Beth-El of Providence  
on Tuesday, April 12th at 6 pm. To register, please  
contact Cantor Shoshana, who will send you a reg-  
istration form (deadline for registration is March  
28th). We will arrange a carpool from Fall River, so  
don't let the night-driving be a deterrent!

In case you didn't know...the rabbi and can-  
tor teach an adult ed class every Monday morning  
in our TBE library from 10:30-12:00. We cover a  
wide range of topics, from current events to topics  
in Jewish theology to Jewish history, Rabbinic and  
Biblical literature, to Jewish music and poetry. The  
topics change based on the interests of the partici-  
pants. You do not need to be a traditional Jewish  
"believer" - all viewpoints are welcome; nor do you  
need to come to every class in order to get some-  
thing from any particular class - you can drop in any  
week. Please join us!



Our Adult Education class takes a moment to say a brachah and  
enjoy some nuts and fruit on Tu biShevat (Cantor is behind the  
camera!) The Seder on January 24th was wonderful!

## FALL RIVER JEWISH HOME

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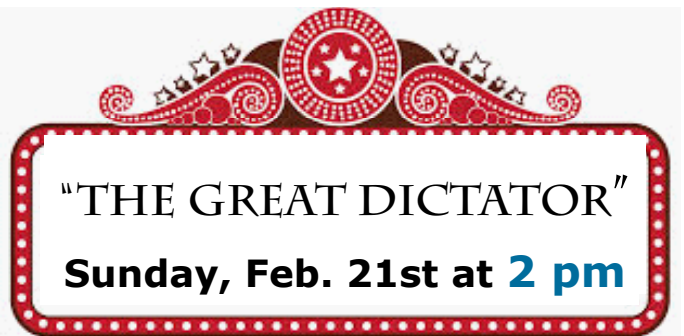
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For more information please call (508) 679-6172

538 Robeson St., Fall River, MA 02720  
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**SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
AT THE JEWISH MOVIES:  
"THE GREAT DICTATOR"**

**\*\*Note "Winter time" of 2 pm**

The Great Dictator is a 1940 American political  
satire comedy-drama film written, directed, pro-  
duced, scored by and starring Charlie Chaplin. It  
was Chaplin's first true sound film. Chaplin's film  
advanced a stirring, controversial condemnation  
of Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, fascism, antisemi-  
tism, and the Nazis. At the time of its first release,  
the United States was still formally at peace with  
Germany. Chaplin plays both leading roles: a ruth-  
less fascist dictator, and a persecuted Jewish bar-  
ber. In addition to being Chaplin's most commer-  
cially successful film, modern critics have praised  
it as a historically significant film and an important  
work of satire. The Great Dictator was nominated  
for five Academy Awards - Outstanding Production,  
Best Actor, Best Writing (Original Screenplay), Best  
Supporting Actor for Jack Oakie, and Best Music  
(Original Score).

**Sunday, Feb. 21st at 2 PM in the Vestry**



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## *Sisterhood Gift Shop*

Keep us in mind when shopping for meaningful gifts for bar and bat mitzvot, showers, weddings, hostess gifts, etc.

Hannah R. Evans  
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# YAHARZEITS

2/1/2016 22 Shevat 5776  
Seymour Filler

2/2/2016 23 Shevat 5776  
Herman Bernstein  
Bernice Hoffman  
Charles Kane  
Mary Reiser

2/3/2016 24 Shevat 5776  
Morris Lepes

2/4/2016 25 Shevat 5776  
David Babin  
Simon Goldberg

2/5/2016 26 Shevat 5776  
Dr. Jacob Helfanbein

2/6/2016 27 Shevat 5776  
Samuel M. Schwartz

2/7/2016 28 Shevat 5776  
Madeline Leonard

2/8/2016 29 Shevat 5776  
Abraham Dashoff  
Samuel Ehrenhaus  
Sidney Lechan  
Ida Woltman  
Hilda Zaslou

2/9/2016 30 Shevat 5776  
Nathan B. Sokoll

2/10/2016 1 Adar I 5776  
Sarah Aber  
William Wolfson

2/11/2016 2 Adar I 5776  
Martin Goldsmith  
Hyman Karp

2/13/2016 4 Adar I 5776  
Bernard Chebot  
Sadie Lovit  
Nathan Bernard Silverman

2/14/2016 5 Adar I 5776  
Morris Levine  
Barney Prebluda

2/15/2016 6 Adar I 5776  
Morris Haims  
Edith Kusinitz  
Philip Ostroff  
Bertha Weinstock  
Philip Zalkind

2/16/2016 7 Adar I 5776  
George Lucove  
Adelle Wiener

2/17/2016 8 Adar I 5776  
Elena Lee Cohen  
Selma Juda  
Mannis Shapiro

2/20/2016 11 Adar I 5776  
Louis I. Galitsky  
Hyman B. Gollub  
Mary Robinovitz  
George Sandler

2/21/2016 12 Adar I 5776  
Louis Bachman  
Hyman Levine  
Larry Lurie

2/22/2016 13 Adar I 5776  
Robert M. Cohen

2/24/2016 15 Adar I 5776  
William Goldman  
Vivian Grozen

2/25/2016 16 Adar I 5776  
Samuel Katzman

2/26/2016 17 Adar I 5776  
Louis Nulman

2/27/2016 18 Adar I 5776  
Helen Freedman  
Florence Lash  
Sylvia Yoken

2/28/2016 19 Adar I 5776  
William Feinberg  
Ruth Levine  
William Lurie

2/29/2016 20 Adar I 5776  
George Brenner  
Helen Nulman

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