

TEMPLE BETH EL

Fall River, Massachusetts



88th Year

January 2016

Tevet/Shevat 5776

No. 5

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat

Friday, January 15th & Saturday, January 16th

At both the Kabbalat Shabbat and the Shabbat morning service we will remember MLK and his colleague Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel through special melodies and the study of their inspirational teachings.



Tu biShevat Seder

Sunday, January 24th: 4-5:30 PM

Join us as we celebrate Tu biShevat with a simple seder of wine, juices, fruit and nuts. Please RSVP to the office by January 18th so we have plenty of these "fruits of the trees."



CHANUKAH PARTY PHOTOS, COURTESY OF HANNAH EVANS



A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Rabbi Mark Elber

More than meets the eye

In the middle of December every year for the last number of years I've been attending the annual three day conference of the Association for Jewish Studies. It is an invigorating immersion in current research across the gamut of Jewish topics: Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Kabbalah, Chassidism, Jewish philosophy, Holocaust studies, ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary Jewish History, Israel, Jewish literature in Hebrew, Yiddish, and English, and the arts. It's a very intensive experience from early in the morning into the evening with fifteen to eighteen panels going on simultaneously in every time slot. This year was the 47th annual conference. It began in 1968 with maybe 40–50 people attending and this year there were over 1,100. Each 90 minute panel usually has three to five people presenting papers prepared specifically for the conference generally to share with others their current work and projects. Every evening ends with the screening of a Jewish film after a late supper.

The conference is international in scope with people attending from Israel, Europe, and South America, but with the vast majority from the United States. Ironically, though non-Orthodox Judaism seems to be losing members in the United States, the level of innovative and original studies and creativity has grown immensely over the decades to which this conference is a tribute and testimony. The conference makes it clear that different people are engaged in both Judaism and Jewishness in many different ways. For some people there is a love of Judaism, the religious traditions of our people and the sacred texts of our tradition. For others there may be a passion for Jewish knowledge without necessarily a fervent faith in traditional Jewish beliefs. There are still others who commit themselves to studying Jewish history or expressing their Jewish identity and passions through the arts. The main common denominator, however, is the commitment to their Jewishness. Notice I said Jewishness rather than Judaism. Some people are passionate about both their ethnic/cultural identity and the religion that has generally been a central component of that identity, but there are many people who are deeply involved, but not always with our religious rituals.

It is important to remember that Judaism in its origins is not a religion in the common Western definition of that term, but more like what Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan termed "a civilization." In other words, not only has Judaism evolved over the centuries, but it has always included much more than religious beliefs. At this point in our history I think that any way in which people are engaged

and committed to their heritage is valuable. We live in a society in which everyone who is Jewish is essentially a Jew by choice. People have the freedom to embrace their Jewishness or to reject it. What Judaism will look like in the coming generations is hard to predict. There will probably always be people who practice what they believe to be Orthodox Judaism (though that has a history too and is a relatively recent phenomenon) and the various other Jewish denominations will have differing connections to our traditions. It has always been my hope that people will make those choices based on study and knowledge. I had a professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem who one day in class declared "there are no real *epikorsim* ("heretics") today - nobody knows enough." In other words he was saying that people who reject the tradition don't do it out of knowledge of the tradition, but rather out of lack of knowledge. He himself was not a traditional Jew, but he devoted his life to studying Judaism.

Not all study or commitment has to be through book learning. As I mentioned earlier, at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference there were regular sessions on the arts: novels, poetry, theater, and film. We live in a very visual age – the various visual arts have flowered greatly over the last decades, especially cinema. Here at Temple Beth El we've been enjoying -for over half a year now - monthly viewings of films that have some Jewish component. We've seen Israeli films, classic Jewish films such as "Exodus," newer films such as "Defiance," and most recently, "Woman in Gold." Every film has been excellent and each has been different from the other. Some films are comic, some are tragic, some are moving – and all have been really worthwhile. If you haven't already joined us, please consider doing so. The quality of the films has been very high and there are many more to come. They stimulate thought and expose us to parts of our culture and history that we may not necessarily be familiar with. Their virtues are many.

We can learn a great deal about American Jewish culture and "the American Jewish story" through watching how it is portrayed in films. We can come to understand Israeli society better through film. Cinema can inform us directly by what it portrays and indirectly by our paying attention to what it chooses to expose us to and how these topics are presented. There's a lot to explore together and it's a pleasure to do so as a community. The word "synagogue" is essentially a word that comes from a Greek translation of the Hebrew term "*Beit Kneset*" which means "house of gathering." Our monthly Temple Beth El Sunday cinema is a stimulating and entertaining new tradition of our gathering in community. Hope to see you there soon.

Rabbi Mark Elber

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin 2016 I am smiling about the utility bills so far this winter, and hoping that the trend continues. We recently installed a digital timer on our boiler, so that we could better control when the boiler comes on and goes off. George keeps a close eye on the forecast as well as the schedule of events here in the Temple, and adjusts the timer accordingly. The key is heating the building up, then turning off the boiler before the heat is overwhelming and windows are opened to let the heat out. So far it has worked very well, and combined with the mild weather, our heating bills have been quite a bit lower than usual. After all of our other expenses this fall, it is a welcome relief.

We have checked the towers after the last few downpours and so far, so good...no leaks. We are now working out how best to go about repairing the interior damage. Thanks again to all those who have donated to the Tower Project. Every bit helps!

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to welcome Robert Falconero as a full-fledged member of our congregation. We look forward to celebrating his Bar Mitzvah!

I would also like to congratulate my good friend and our Vice President, Atty. Jeffrey Entin on his retirement from his law practice here in town. He has promised to continue to help us with any legal matters we have, and we appreciate that kind offer. I also extend my sincere condolences on the loss of his stepson, Timothy Cordeiro. We've also had to say goodbye to two other longtime members of the congregation, Dr. Myron Rubinstein, a past-president of Temple Beth El, and Edith Gold. May their memory be for a blessing.

Lastly, it was a pleasure to see so many happy faces at our Chanukah party. Over 60 people were here to celebrate the holiday in style! Thank you to everyone who made it such a success.

Steve Silverman
President

Sisterhood President's Message

Who can believe it's January already? I can't. The mild weather we experienced these last few weeks has given us a false sense of season. But I am not complaining. I also want to wish everyone a happy and safe 2016. It seems like just yesterday we were anticipating Y2K. Well, we survived it without any unforeseen incidents.

We recently celebrated Chanukah in style. The meal, decorations and company were A-one. This was made possible through the hard work of several people: Hannah Evans and Marcie Nawi tackled the decorations and Beverly Solup helped with the food. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the girls in the office, Judy Morgenstern and Marie Twomey who handled the reservations. The Cantor entertained us with her singing and guitar playing. She had the Hebrew school children singing with her, which we all enjoy. Lastly, I want to thank Marcie for her donation of the decorations in honor of her dad, Robert Falconero's conversion.

Our Book Club marches on. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13th at 10:30 am in the Temple library. At that time we will be discussing "Notorious RBG, the Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg," written by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik. I picked it up today and it looks like an interesting read. Hope to see you all there.

So until next month, Shalom.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President

**THE TOWER PROJECT**

Thank you for your donations!

Bill Chebot

In memory of Stewart Kusinitz

Irma & Carl Feldman

In memory of parents, Jessie & Julius Simpson

Enid K. Lomax

In loving memory of brother, Stewart Kusinitz

Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Monchik**Cheryl Crossley O'Brien Simmons**

In honor of Temple Beth El

Gail Wilkinson, Josh, Kara, Harry, Charlie, Matthew & Laura

In honor of the celebrations of Irma & Carl Feldman's birthdays and Chanukah

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SERVICE SCHEDULE**January 2016
Tevet/Shevat 5776**Friday, January 1 (20 Tevet)

Candle Lighting	4:06 pm
Shabbat Service	6:30 pm

Saturday, January 2 (21 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Shemot	10:00 am
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Friday, January 8 (27 Tevet)

Candle Lighting	4:13 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 9 (28 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vaera	10:00 am
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Monday, January 11 (1 Shevat)

Rosh Chodesh Shevat

Friday, January 15 (5 Shevat)

Candle Lighting	4:21 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 16 (6 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Bo	10:00 am
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Friday, January 22 (12 Shevat)

Candle Lighting	4:29 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 23 (13 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Beshalakh	10:00 am
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Monday, January 25 (15 Shevat)

Tu biShevat

Friday, January 29 (19 Shevat)

Candle Lighting	4:38 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 30 (20 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Yitro	10:00 am
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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:

Friday, January 1st - New Year's Day
Monday, January 18th - Martin Luther King Day

OFFICE NOTES:

If you would like to have a tax statement for 2015 mailed to you, please call or e-mail the office.

Thank you to Hathaway Funeral Homes and Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel for the fruit baskets and Edible Arrangements they had delivered to the office during Chanukah. We thoroughly enjoyed them!

Do you know your Hebrew name? Do you know your spouse's Hebrew name? How about your parents'? We get many calls in the office asking if we know someone's Hebrew name, and the short answer is almost always, "Sorry, no." Sadly, the calls often come from someone who has recently lost a loved one, because they want it for both the funeral service and the headstone or foot marker in the cemetery.

In the past we have asked for people to call us (or e-mail us) with their Hebrew name so we could make a note of it in our files, but unfortunately very few responded. Hebrew names are an important part of our heritage and history. Traditionally Hebrew names are given honoring the memory of a deceased loved one. We would like to keep that memory and history alive and active.

Places to look for Hebrew names: ketubah (Jewish marriage contract), other important papers, family prayer books, Hebrew school documents, headstones and foot markers.

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**IN MEMORIAM****EDITH GOLD**

DECEMBER 2, 2015 – 21 KISLEV 5776

DR. MYRON RUBINSTEIN

DECEMBER 19, 2015 - 7 TEVET 5776

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

Special Thanks

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all those who filled the chapel on December 19 to help me celebrate the 75th anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah. I also want to thank Libby Cohen, president of the Sisterhood and the Sisterhood for supplying the refreshments after the services as well as George for preparing them. I've been doing this every year on the anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah ever since I was president of the temple at the suggestion of my dear wife, Hummy, of Blessed Memory, who thought it might encourage others to do the same. Rabbi Mark has said that he would help anyone who would like to do this, so please take advantage of this offer.

Bill Chebot

OFF THE SHELF:

Hello everyone! Yes, I am still here and the library is alive and even doing well! My best customer seems to be, without a doubt, Cantor Shoshana. I am thrilled that both the cantor and rabbi think that we have absolute treasures in that little room of ours.

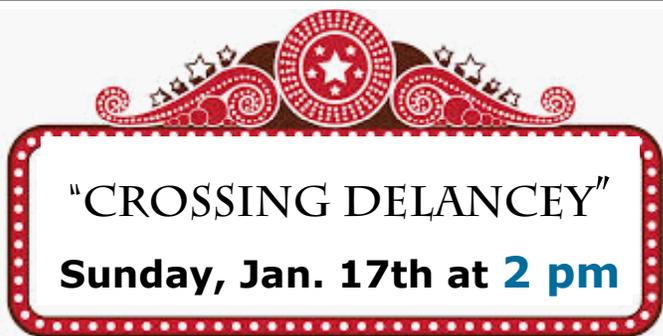
We have quite a number of new books. Several are from the rabbi and quite a few have been donated by Libby Cohen and my mom, Eleanor Lechan. I have also donated a number of my own books that I hope you will enjoy, and we have also ordered ten new books from Amazon, including the current Book Club book, "The Notorious RBG, the Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg." As usual I try to feature the newest books that we have received in the book racks on the file cabinet and the shelf above the card catalog. Very soon I will be bringing in a larger book display rack so that even more books are readily at hand. Just remember to take the card out of the back of the book, sign it, and leave it on the desk so that I can see who checked out what!

My new hours are the first Monday of the month (or the next if that happens to be a holiday) from about 12:30 to 1:15 or so. I know that most of the snowbirds have left by now, but the colder weather is coming so be sure to pick up a few books to keep you from thinking about the cold and snowy weather that is sure to come!

Hope to see you there!

Robin Fielding

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"CROSSING DELANCEY"

Sunday, Jan. 17th at 2 pm

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON
AT THE JEWISH MOVIES:
"CROSSING DELANCEY"**

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

The life of an independent young New York woman is turned topsy turvy when her traditional Jewish grandmother employs a *shadkhen* (matchmaker) to find the girl an appropriate husband. Unfortunately, the last thing the young lady wants is to be saddled with a spouse and she resists the advances of the kindly street vendor the *shadkhen* arranges as her mate.

Sunday, Jan. 17th at 2 PM in the Vestry

Sisterhood Gift Shop

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

I am available on Mondays prior to 10:30 am and after 12 pm. To schedule an appointment for another time, please feel free to call or email me.

Hannah R. Evans

Phone: 508-674-2505

Email: hannahbecky@comcast.net

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

Thank you for your donations received through December 17, 2015

Yahrzeits

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

Father, Edward Adaskin	Judith Barry
Father in law, Frederick Belford	Virginia Belford
Mother, Esther Silk Cullen	Kenneth Silk
Father, Meyer Goldman	Sylvia Zalkind
Mother, Alice Helfanbein	Barry Helfanbein
Grandmother, Sadie Katersky	Ellen & Ronald Reuter
Brother, Howard Krasnow	Carol Schwartz
Parents, Sadie & Irving Lovit	Nathan Lovit
Mother, grandmother, Phyllis Nerenberg	Anna, Marc Bernstein, Lee & Jackie
Husband, Milton Reiser	Hilda Reiser
Brother, Dr. Donald Rotenberg	Lisa & Stephen Shapiro & family
Father, Samuel Rotenberg	Lisa & Stephen Shapiro & family
Mother, Pauline Rudolph	Howard Rudolph
Mother in law, Pauline Rudolph	Leonard Lakin
Uncle, Dr. Samuel Sandler	Samuel Billard
Mother, Paula Shuman	David Shuman
Father, Julius Simpson	Irma Feldman
Father, Maurice Sludsky	Paula Sultan
Husband, Robert Sokoll	Marilyn Sokoll
Father, Aaron Solotist	Harriet Grunberg
Mother, Rose Tallman	Elayne Lowenthal
Father, Murray Taradash	Allen Taradash

**MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL
ENDOWMENT FUND**

In memory of Arlene Friedman
 In memory of Stewart Kusinitz
 In memory of Dr. Clinton Levin
 In memory of Donald Rubinstein
 For the yearzeit of my beloved wife, Arline Alpert
 For the yearzeit of my beloved brother, Stanley Alpert
 Sumner Alpert

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Robert Falconero
 For the recovery of Judy Silverman
 Marilyn Sokoll

CAPITAL FUND

In appreciation of the Temple Beth El Staff
 Andrew Dorsch
 For the recovery of Sidney Winokoor
 Irma & Carl Feldman

**IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of Eleanor Pollack Chavenson
 In memory of Claudette Dubreil
 In memory of Dr. Clinton Levin
 In memory of Dr. Norman Paquin
 Ann & Bob Chavenson

**DR. MAURICE MORGANSTEIN
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of Dr. Jerald Morganstein
 Gloria & Justin Morganstein

**The Marcie Nawi & Robert Falconero Fund
for Girls and Women Worldwide**

In honor of Robert Falconero
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 Hannah Evans
 Dr. & Mrs. Harvey Reback

In memory of Anita Clain
 In memory of Timothy Cordeiro
 Norm & Anita Bolski

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Brandon Leonardo
 Libby Cohen

**HYMAN & GOLDIE SCHWARTZ
LEGACY FUND**

In memory of Edith Gold
 Dorothy & Lester Schwartz
 Tylda Schwartz
 For the yearzeit of my beloved husband, Isaac Schwartz
 Tylda Schwartz & family
 For the yearzeit of my beloved father, Hyman Schwartz
 Lester Schwartz
 For the yearzeit of my beloved brother, Isaac Schwartz
 Dorothy & Lester Schwartz

Temple Family

- Our deepest condolences to the family of Edith Gold.
- Our deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Myron Rubinstein, past president of Temple Beth El.
- Our deepest condolences to Atty. Jeffrey Entin and family on the loss of his stepson, Timothy Cordeiro.
- Mazel Tov to Robert (Aryeh) Falconero on joining the Jewish mishpocha.
- A sincere thank you to Bob Falconero and Marcie Nawi for supplying the beautiful table arrangements for our Chanukah Party.

TBE News & Notes

Hebrew School News:

On Sunday, Nov. 29th, our Hebrew school students Zach, Mason and Lev took a field trip to the historic Touro synagogue in Newport and to the Loeb Touro Visitors Center, accompanied by Zach's mom, Cindy Phillips (who kindly took photos), and the rabbi and cantor.

On Thursday, December 10th, the 5th night of Chanukah, our students, in the company of Cantor Shoshana, sang songs and blessings for the residents of the Fall River Jewish Home.

Rabbi Mark in the Community

Rabbi Mark was a guest on the Silva Lining Radio Show with Amy Rigtrup on WSAR 1480 AM in Somerset. The topic was "Honoring the Deceased, Comforting the Mourners; Jewish Funeral Traditions." To hear the show click on the link on our website, then scroll down the page and click on "I invite you to listen to the podcast, dated 11/5/2015."

Rabbi Mark was also a panelist at the Elements Theater Company in Orleans, MA, after their production of the Merchant of Venice. The topic was "A Pound of Flesh: Exploring Qualities of Mercy when Encountering 'The Other'." Rabbi Mark said it was an interesting discussion, and he was very impressed with the quality of the theater and the performance itself. There is a link to the theater on our website.



Inside Historic Touro Synagogue



Hebrew School students at the Fall River Jewish Home during Chanukah



Lev Elber, Mason Theis and Zach Phillips, along with the Rabbi and Cantor, enjoy their outing to Touro Synagogue and the Loeb Visitors Center

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We continue to update our website with upcoming events, interesting articles written by our Spiritual Leaders and others, Book Club lists, photos from events, etc. Check it out regularly!

Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

YAHARZEITS

1/3/2016 22 Tevet 5776
Gussie Blume
Martha Kaufmann

1/4/2016 23 Tevet 5776
Fannie Wilner Aranov
Ruth Gerard
Mae Hodosh
Sarah Kaplan
Dr. Donald Rotenberg

1/5/2016 24 Tevet 5776
Bruce Kay

1/7/2016 26 Tevet 5776
Lillian Kline
Anna Ellison Schaffer

1/8/2016 27 Tevet 5776
Sarah Belford
Joseph Noe Golub

1/9/2016 28 Tevet 5776
Simon Winokoor

1/10/2016 29 Tevet 5776
Birdie Phillips

1/12/2016 2 Shevat 5776
Betty Greenberg
Dorothy S. Levin

1/13/2016 3 Shevat 5776
Sidney Goldman
Rose Moss

1/14/2016 4 Shevat 5776
Benjamin Isserlis

1/15/2016 5 Shevat 5776
Claire Sundel

1/16/2016 6 Shevat 5776
Sarah Freedman
Charles Rosenberg
Philip Shapiro

1/18/2016 8 Shevat 5776
Ralph D. Lider

1/19/2016 9 Shevat 5776
Augusta Kaufmann

1/20/2016 10 Shevat 5776
Normand Futoransky
Joseph Horowitz
Cynthia Gold Karlinsky

1/22/2016 12 Shevat 5776
Arnold Wolfson

1/23/2016 13 Shevat 5776
Bernard Jaffe

1/24/2016 14 Shevat 5776
Louis Freedman
Esther Mickelson
William Shriberg
Morris Wilner

1/25/2016 15 Shevat 5776
Margot Bogus
Adolph Feder
Fannie Hoffman
Fannie Woloshen

1/26/2016 16 Shevat 5776
Abner Kravitz

1/27/2016 17 Shevat 5776
Jack Mickelson
Charles Novek

1/28/2016 18 Shevat 5776
Edith Gerlich
Ada Wolfson

1/29/2016 19 Shevat 5776
Louis Robinovitz
Mildred Trieff

1/30/2016 20 Shevat 5776
Morris Horvitz, Jr.
Harry Lider
Lottie Bloom Sandler
Eugene Joseph Silverman

1/31/2016 21 Shevat 5776
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