

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



92nd Year

January 2020

Tevet/Shevat 5780

No. 5

Regular Service Schedule

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....	8:00 am
Friday Evening Services	5:30 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....	10:00 am

Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend (January 17th-20th)



Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel marching with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1965 Voting Rights March in Selma. Rabbi Heschel famously said about that day: "I felt my legs were praying."

Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend will begin with a Friday night service highlighting music associated with African-American history and the Civil Rights Movement; this theme will continue on Shabbat morning when we will discuss-appropriately enough-the Torah portion of *Shemot* (the beginning of the book of Exodus).

As always, all our members are cordially invited to attend the **Martin Luther King Day Community Breakfast at Bristol Community College**, taking place (weather permitting) on **Monday, January 20th, beginning at 8:30 am.**

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

It's Not Always the Things Around Us That Change, but How We See Them

Though according to the Jewish calendar we are in the year 5780, the Jewish people have only been around for a mere 4,000 years. However that's more than enough time in which to evolve a great deal and to change. There's a particular blessing we traditionally recite whenever we do something new in the year. That blessing is known by its first uncommon word: *Shehekheyanu*. The *Shehekheyanu* begins as every blessing does with the same first six words in Hebrew that mean that we recognize the Eternal One as the source of all blessing, as our G!d, and as ruler of the universe. We then conclude with the words I'm sure we all know: *Shehekheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higi'anu lazman hazeh* (who has given us life, sustained us, and brought us to this moment).

Every act, everything we do, every word we speak affects our consciousness. The more we do something consciously, the more we speak words honestly and with conviction and consciousness, the deeper the impact on our lives. Our tradition calls that doing something or saying something with *kavana* (intention). There's a well-known phrase from the Spanish/Portuguese Rabbi Isaac Abravanel (1437-1508) that "prayer without *kavana* is like a body without a soul." This doesn't mean that it is easy to pray, speak, and act with *kavana*. It's hard to avoid at least occasionally saying or doing things either automatically or without real intention behind it. However our *kavana* can grow with time if we cultivate it, if we try to be conscious of what we do or say as we do or say it. Of course, this is a lifelong task, an ambition to always be growing spiritually, deepening our experience and presence in the moment as much as we can.

In the month of January this year we finish the book of Genesis and begin the book of Exodus in our annual journey through the Torah. The book of Genesis begins with Creation and continues with stories about humankind before moving to the beginnings of the Jewish People through the lives of the Patriarchs, Matriarchs and their offspring. Genesis ends with our ancestors as essentially a small clan. Joseph dies at the end of the book and asks the Children of Israel to bring his bones back to the Promised Land when the time comes when G!d remembers them and returns them to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. So much of Jewish history has reiterated that very wish i.e. that someday, no matter how many years we have lived dispersed around the globe separated from our ancient homeland, we might be reunited with the land of Israel. It has always been a central theme in our identity as a people. That longing to return to our homeland is found

daily in a number of places in our prayer book. Right before we recite the *Sh'ma* declaring the Oneness of G!d, we express our longing to return from "the four corners of the earth" to our homeland. When we recite the *Amidah*, the central prayer said while standing, we articulate that desire to return to the land of our origins.

In the very beginning of the book of Exodus we see the transition from a small clan to a people. In Exodus 1:8 it says: "A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph" who then goes on to refer to "*Am b'nei yisra'el* (the people/nation of the children of Israel). At this point in the Torah, our ancestors are a people suffering in slavery and oppression in the land of Egypt. A couple of chapters later in the same Torah portion, Moses has his fateful encounter with the burning bush in which he experiences the Presence of the Eternal One in a lowly out-of-the-way bush. This shepherd who is "heavy of tongue" encounters via the humblest of plants the Eternal One. What a striking juxtaposition! From here begins the journey from primarily being a people to the embrace and development of the spiritual/religious traditions of our people i.e. Judaism in addition to Jewishness.

The fact that we are beginning a new decade could feel like an arbitrary event. Regarding change and the passage of time, ten years is a significant number. So much in our lives and in society has changed over the last ten years and certainly over the last hundred years. Fall River has changed a great deal over the course of that time as has the Jewish community in Fall River. We've seen the most momentous events in the life of the Jewish people in probably the last 2,000 years over the course of this century with the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel. There have been unimaginable changes in technology that have affected so much regarding the way we live. Yet with all of these changes, many things remain the same – the essential concerns for living a healthy and meaningful life have not changed. Despite all of our technological advances and conveniences, our lives can feel increasingly precarious. Humanity has the power to cure or prevent illnesses like never before, to solve problems or exacerbate them as never before, to understand the planet which we inhabit and to destroy it like never before. Every person matters just like every act or word we say affects our consciousness and therefore matters. We can attempt to align ourselves with that which greatly transcends us or ignore it all. While our powers and influence are miniscule in the grand scheme of things, nevertheless each one of us can make a difference. We can always strive to grow. Moses experienced G!d's Presence in the lowly bush. Other people might have merely seen just another unremarkable bush in the wilderness. It's not always the things around us that change, but rather how we perceive and understand them.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2020!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sisterhood President's Message

Just a quick note this month to let you know that we are keeping the building nice and warm now that the temperatures have plummeted, so we hope you all will continue to come to our temple for services, classes, and special events. George and his helpers from the school do a great job keeping our sidewalks clear, but please be very careful getting from your car to our property.

My condolences to the family of Fishy Sokoll. Not only did we lose a wonderful long-time member of our congregatation, but Bill Chebot lost a very dear friend, a friend who after so many years and countless Thursday lunches together was more like a brother. Still, we must celebrate a life well-lived for 94 years. May his memory be for a blessing.

On a lighter note, I am very happy to report that Marie is back to work, and is doing great. She is walking around so naturally, and nearly pain-free, it is just amazing. She is an inspiration, that's for sure. She told me today that her physical therapist said she should be back on the tennis courts this summer, and I can't even imagine what her golf game will be like when she can really push off that right leg. Welcome back Marie, we missed you!

Last month we had a special plea to RSVP for all events where food is provided. It seems many of you have taken that to heart, as we have a big crowd signed up for our Chanukah party on December 29th. Thank you for your consideration, and please remember to keep RSVP'ing for all future events!

Here's to a happy and healthy 2020. 2020... can you even believe it? Seems like just the other day we were wondering what the the new millenium would bring!

Steve Silverman
President

Well folks, January is here, and with it comes the real winter weather. Rain, hail, sleet and good old snow are here to stay for the next three months. No wonder bears hibernate. To all our snow birds, do you see what you're missing?

At this time we are busy getting ready for our annual Chanukah party. I hope that I'll have the pleasure of seeing all of you there. The folks responsible for making this happen are Norm and Anita Bolski, Elaine and Harvey Reback, Hannah Evans, Sylvia Eisner, Steve Silverman, Cantor Shoshana, Beverly Solup and yours truly. I would be remiss if I forgot to mention the office girls, Judy Morgenstern and Marie Twomey. Lastly, George Haire helps us to put everything together. Thank you folks for all you do. With out your help none of this would happen.

Now until next month, be careful walking and stay warm and safe.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President

Sisterhood Gift Shop

* SALE * 50% Off! * SALE *

As the merchandise in the gift shop sells out, I will not be reordering. This is the time to pick up a seder plate or menorah and give it as a gift possibly to your grandchildren or some other special person. Most of the merchandise is 50% off! Books are reduced by 33%.

I am available before or after the Rabbi's and Cantor's Monday morning class. If that is not convenient, please contact me to arrange another morning.

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

LEADERSHIP

- Mark Elber.....Rabbi
Shoshana Brown.....Cantor
Stephen Silverman.....President
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SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 2020: Tevet/Shevat 5780Friday, January 3 (6 Tevet)

Candle Lighting	4:08 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 4 (7 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayigash	10:00 am
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Friday, January 10 (13 Tevet)

Candle Lighting	4:15 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 11 (14 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: - Vayekhi	10:00 am
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Friday, January 17 (20 Tevet)

Candle Lighting	4:23 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 18 (21 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Shemot	10:00 am
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Friday, January 24 (27 Tevet)

Candle Lighting	4:32 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 25 (28 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vaera	10:00 am
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Monday, January 27 (1 Shevat)

Rosh Chodesh Shevat

IN MEMORIAM

FRANCIS "FISHY" SOKOLL
NOV. 30, 2019 – 2 KISLEV 5780

MAY HIS MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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(a community hospice agency)

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Website: frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Wednesday, January 1st - New Year's Day



The last full moon of 2019 rises over
Tiverton & Little Compton

(photo taken by Cantor Shoshana from
Third beach in Middletown, RI)

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William "BT" Hathaway
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HATHAWAY
FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

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River, MA. Periodicals postage paid at Fall River, MA. POSTMASTERS, send
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TBE News & Notes

Welcome back to **Marie Twomey** to our TBE Office – and welcome to your new knee! We missed you sorely, but hope that you soon will not be sore at all.

I thank all who helped to plan and execute our Chanukah party (which, with the cooperation of the weather, will have taken place by the time you read this); we are indebted to our stalwart volunteers, especially the Events Committee members, for such festive gatherings.

Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend (Jan. 17th-20th) will begin with a Friday night service highlighting music associated with African-American history and the Civil Rights Movement; this theme will continue on Shabbat morning when we will discuss-appropriately enough-the Torah portion of *Shemot* (the beginning of the book of Exodus).

As always, all our members are cordially invited to attend the **Martin Luther King Day Community Breakfast at Bristol Community College**, taking place (weather permitting) on **Monday, Jan. 20th, beginning at 8:30 am.**

Join us on **Sunday, January 26th**, for an oldie-but-goodie in cinema, "**Gentleman's Agreement**" (see next column for more info on this).

Looking ahead...

Save the date for our Friday night **Tu biShevat Seder on Feb. 7th at 5:30 pm.** Come celebrate the New Year for the trees and enjoy a healthy repast of fruits, nuts, and three kinds of wine!

Of note: **Rabbi Mark** will be attending the **OHALAH Jewish Renewal Clergy Conference** in Broomfield, CO from Jan. 12th to Jan 16th – so be sure to ask him about it when he returns. The theme this year is "*Lizkor et Ha Brit - To Remember the Covenant: Inspiring Hope and Vision.*"

Of interest: a friend of mine (from my Minnesota days), Kevin Olson, has co-written the following play (very relevant to the news these days), which will soon be playing in Providence:

"How Many Bushels Am I Worth?"

More Information:



SUNDAY AT THE JEWISH MOVIES

"Gentleman's Agreement"

Gentleman's Agreement is a 1947 American drama film based on Laura Z. Hobson's best-selling novel of the same name. It concerns a journalist (played by Gregory Peck) who poses as a Jew to research an exposé on the widespread distrust and dislike of Jews in New York City and the affluent communities of New Canaan, Connecticut and Darien, Connecticut.

The film was nominated for eight Oscars and won three: Best Picture, Best Supporting Actress (Celeste Holm), and Best Director (Elia Kazan).

"How Many Bushels Am I Worth?"

Written by Soviet émigré Bena Shklyanoy and Kevin Olson

January 9th – 12th
AS220 Black Box Theatre,
95 Empire St, Providence

The original play, making its Providence debut, captures a Kiev family's agonizing decision in 1976 to flee the Soviet Union for the United States. Based on the life of playwright Bena Shklyanoy, "*How Many Bushels Am I Worth?*" marks close to five decades of Soviet-Jewish immigration to America. Tickets are \$20. The event, which opened in 2018 to critical acclaim in Chicago, is produced by *AppleDoesNotFall.com* and *FirstHand Theatrical*, a Rhode Island theater company.

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to: appledoesnotfall.com/plays/.



Thank you for your donations received through December 18, 2019

Yahrzeits

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...	Donated by:
David Cohen	Cohen/Novek Families
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Grandfather, Isidor Juda	Joyce Juda
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Father, Francis Levin	Miriam Klein
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Sylvia Reback	Dr. Harvey Reback
Father, Julius Simpson	Irma Feldman
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Husband, Myron Wilner	Marion Wilner

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Marilyn Ehrenhaus
In memory of Francis "Fishy" Sokoll
For the yahrzeit of my beloved grandfather, Bennett Alpert
Sumner Alpert

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Congregation Temple Beth El
Cheryl Crossley-Simmons

In memory of Edwin Bikofsky
Gloria & Jerry Baskin

In memory of Marilyn Ehrenhaus
Gloria & Jerry Baskin
Ethel & Sid Winokoor

In memory of Francis "Fishy" Sokoll
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Barbara Gotlib
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Beverly Sokoll
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Marilyn Sokoll
Nancy Waldman, Ida Tatelbaum

For the recovery of Iris Katzman
Irma & Carl Feldman

For the recovery of Marie Twomey
Hannah Evans

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Cantor Shoshana celebrating a special birthday
In memory of "Fishy" Sokoll
Anita & Norm Bolski

BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

In honor of Cathy Saltzman celebrating a birthday
For the recovery of Marie Twomey
Arlyne Dondis

SPECIAL GIFTS

In memory of Max F. & Edith Gold
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WISH LIST - HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOKS

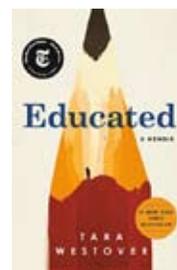
In memory of Marilyn Ehrenhaus
In memory of my dear friend "Fishy" Sokoll
For the yahrzeit of my wonderful, irreplaceable, dear wife,
"Hummy"
Bill Chebot

For the recovery of Bill Chebot
Marie Twomey

The ~~NEW~~ Sisterhood Book Club

The selection for our January 15th Book Club meeting is "Educated" by Tara Westover. Looking ahead, The selection for our February 19th meeting is "Olive, Again" by Elizabeth Strout.

Come and join us! The Temple library is toasty warm!



January 15th
←←←



February 19th
→→→

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Office Hours: Monday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

Friendly Visitor: Arleen Bor is our "Friendly Visitor" and 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.

A note of solidarity from Martin Bentz

Shalom Dear Friends at Temple Beth El, Rabbi Mark, Cantor Shoshana,

President Hosam Mahmoud, members of the Board and all the members of the Muslim community of Southeastern Massachusetts express our solidarity and support to all the members of the Jewish community in Fall River. We are horrified by the attack at the Kosher market in New Jersey.

Our hearts bleed with you whenever any individuals are attacked because of their faith. We are distressed by the increase in anti-Semitic attacks by people who have accepted ignorance and hatred as their reality. We are deeply concerned by these all too frequent occurrences of intolerance against all faiths.

We unite in prayer through our common Abrahamic faith that we will be enlightened, guided, and made stronger and all the more resolute that ignorance and hatred cannot gain an upper hand over faith, peace and love.

We know that Faith, Peace, Love, Strength, Justice and Forgiveness emanate from One Source

With all our support and concern in Peace, Shalom, Salam for our Jewish brothers and sisters,

*The members of the Islamic Society
 of Southeastern Massachusetts*

Temple Family

- Our condolences to the family of Francis "Fishy" Sokoll.

A Thank You Note from United Neighbors of Fall River

Dear Friends at Temple Beth El,

We hope that the new year brings us all health, prosperity, justice and peace. Gratitude for the amazing food donations for our emergency "Feed our Families" food and toiletry cupboard. We are seeing more and more folks suffering from food insecurity and your donations make a real difference.

Grateful thanks for all you do to help us repair our corner of the world.

With gratitude,

Wendy Garf-Lipp
 Executive Director



Lev Elber walking down Wilson Road towards North Watuppa Pond just after December's surprise snowstorm.



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

1/1/2020 4 Tevet 5780

Isaac Schwartz
Jacob Yamins

1/3/2020 6 Tevet 5780

Sarah Jacobson

1/4/2020 7 Tevet 5780

Frances Fradkin
Dr. Myron Rubinstein
Selma Sokoll

1/5/2020 8 Tevet 5780

Stanley Alpert
Howard Krasnow
Leon Nathan Malin

1/7/2020 10 Tevet 5780

Arthur Granovsky
Mathilda H. Raffel
Aaron Solotist

1/8/2020 11 Tevet 5780

Arline Alpert
Frederick Belford
Sylvia Feldman
Robert Sokoll

1/9/2020 12 Tevet 5780

Sylvia Schneider

1/10/2020 13 Tevet 5780

Paula E. Shuman
Maurice Sludsky

1/11/2020 14 Tevet 5780

Nathan Silk

1/13/2020 16 Tevet 5780

Herman Gitlin
Bessie Gladstone
David Thaler

1/14/2020 17 Tevet 5780

Sophie Cohen
Ida F. Kane
Louis M. Raffel
Milton Reiser

1/15/2020 18 Tevet 5780

Samuel Kay
Harry Spiro
Murray Taradash

1/16/2020 19 Tevet 5780

George Lustig
Dr. Samuel Sandler

1/17/2020 20 Tevet 5780

Samuel Isaac Siegel

1/19/2020 22 Tevet 5780

Martha Kaufmann

1/20/2020 23 Tevet 5780

Fannie Wilner Aranov
Ruth Gerard
Mae Hodosh
Sarah Kaplan
Dolores Levis
Dr. Donald Rotenberg

1/21/2020 24 Tevet 5780

Bruce Kay

1/22/2020 25 Tevet 5780

Robert Chavenson

1/23/2020 26 Tevet 5780

Lillian Kline
Anna Ellison Schaffer

1/24/2020 27 Tevet 5780

Sarah Belford
Sheila Holtzman

1/25/2020 28 Tevet 5780

Ida Fleisher
Simon Winokoor

1/26/2020 29 Tevet 5780

Paula Fox
Birdie Phillips

1/28/2020 2 Shevat 5780

Betty Greenberg
Dorothy S. Levin

1/29/2020 3 Shevat 5780

Sidney Goldman
Rose Moss

1/30/2020 4 Shevat 5780

George Hodosh

1/31/2020 5 Shevat 5780

Claire Sundel
Harry Weissman

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