

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



92nd Year

March 2020

Adar/Nisan 5780

No. 7

Regular Service Schedule

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am
 Friday Evening Services5:30 pm
 Shabbat Morning Services.....10:00 am



Just a reminder for those who have RSVP'd for our Purim Party!



Monday, March 9th

Reading of the Megillah: 5 pm sharp

Deli Supper: 6:30 pm

Movie: "Making Trouble: 3 Generations of Funny Jewish Women"

Giving *tzedakah* is an important *mitzvah*, and a Purim tradition.
Cash donations for local charities are greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to



Tuesday, April 14th at 5:30 pm

Temple Beth El will continue the tradition of hosting the communal Pesach celebration toward the end of Passover, which this year will be Tuesday, April 14th, the evening of the 7th day of Pesach.

Adults: \$25; Children: 12 & under \$10

Enjoy a scrumptious catered chicken dinner (vegetarian option available by request).



Please RSVP by Thursday, April 2nd!

A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Rabbi Mark Elber

"A Light Unto the Nations"

I'm writing this on Saturday night after having had a minyan this morning at services. We chanted from the Torah and today's portion included the Ten Commandments (which appear twice in the Torah – once in today's portion, *Yitro*, in the Book of Exodus and again in the Book of Deuteronomy in the portion *Va'etkhanan*). Also in today's portion we read a verse commanding us to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Being a holy nation is a lofty-sounding idea, but what exactly does it mean? The term "holy" (*kadosh* in Hebrew) is conventionally understood as meaning "set apart" for a special purpose, a purpose transcending the normal daily activities of life. Shabbat, for example is a day set apart from the rest of the week during which we are supposed to be more concerned with the spiritual elements of our lives. The prophet Isaiah described the role that God would have us play in the world somewhat differently, calling the people of Israel to be "a light unto the nations." In other words, we are supposed to live exemplary lives, lives that infuse the world with holiness.

There's that word again: "holiness." I think in this context "holiness" means "set apart" in the sense of being raised above the mundane, above the ordinary, infused with righteousness, goodness; it infers a kind of purity. The word implies a spiritual state – something that goes beyond the physical, beyond the temporal, partaking of the eternal.

Living one's life with a sense of holiness lends a special dimension to our time here on this earth, offering us the opportunity to infuse even everyday activities with a spiritual component. Jewish law, *halakhah*, has as its aim to spiritualize our activities and our days, touching on so much that we do – whether it's what we eat, the recitation of blessings to express our gratitude for what we have in our lives, study of Torah, how we relate to other people, etc. Our tradition is meant to guide our lives on a daily basis not merely once a week or a few times a year. As with everything else, the more we commit ourselves to it, the more it affects our lives.

So here we have this millennia-long tradition of seeing one of our purposes in the world as being "a light unto the nations." Beginning in the late 19th century, however, a new Jewish ideology arose, which, it was hoped, would solve another millennia-long experience – that of anti-Semitism. The proponents of this ideology believed that the problem

of anti-Semitism could be solved by both returning to our ancient homeland and by becoming a nation like other nations. Of course, that ideology is Zionism. There was more than one form of Zionism, but the one that dominated for the first fifty years of the movement and the early years of the State of Israel at least through the Six Day War, was a Zionism that was socialist and democratic. By creating a radically democratic and socialist society, it hoped to both "normalize" the Jewish people and, simultaneously, to let us indeed become a light unto the nations.

Zionism and the Jewish community in Israel have achieved amazing things in the history of our people, almost miraculous things in fact. After nearly 2,000 years during which most world Jewry lived in exile from the land of Israel, now the largest Jewish population in the world lives in its own homeland. While the Jewish community in the United States has essentially remained the same size over the last seventy years (since the establishment of the state of Israel), in Israel during that same period of time it has grown ten-fold. Zionism revived the Hebrew language. That was not a given. It feels natural to us now, but in the beginning of the Zionist movement and the return to the land of Israel, it wasn't a foregone conclusion that Hebrew would or could be revived. Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, himself was not in favor of it and thought it was impossible. But against all odds, it did succeed. There has been a subsequent revival of Hebrew as a spoken language around the world because of its vast success in Israel. In response to this revival, most synagogues use the Sephardic pronunciation of the Hebrew language as it's used in Israel. (This is less true of Ashkenazic Orthodox synagogues in the Diaspora, though most Ashkenazic Orthodox synagogues in Israel also use the Sephardic pronunciation.)

There has been an amazing flourishing of literature, the arts, cinema, dance, science, and, of course, Judaic studies in Israel. In all of those fields Israel has produced works of international stature – and all of this coming from a very small nation with a relatively small population. Does this qualify us as being a nation like all other nations? There remains the tension between those two attitudes towards how Jews should live. Can we reconcile being a nation like all other nations and being "a light unto the nations" even when the great idealism of the earliest Zionists has become largely marginalized in Israel today? Also what does this issue mean for Jews living in the Diaspora?

Throughout our history we have always maintained our distinctive culture and traditions, though we have lost many members through assimilation.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I sit here smiling to myself about our lack of a true New England winter, I hope I am not jinxing myself. But as George likes to say, snowstorms in March don't stick around, so even if it does snow, the sidewalks will be clear before you know it, and parking won't be an issue. C'mon spring!

While we wait for the sun to strengthen and the flowers to bloom we have two events to look forward to; the Purim Party on Monday, March 9th (I hope you have already RSVP'd), and our Community Passover celebration on Tuesday, April 14th. Our Events Committee is working hard to once again make this year's Passover celebration a highlight of our year, and I hope we will fill the vestry to commemorate the season. Don't forget to RSVP!

My condolences to the families and friends of those we have lost in the past few months, our members Sylvia Zalkind, Victor Field and Louise Macy, as well as former members Janet Smith and Harriet Grunberg. Each was special to us and supported our congregation and cemetery for more than half a century! May their memory be for a blessing.

On a lighter note, it is my pleasure and honor to wish our senior statesman, Charlie Stamper, a very happy 105th birthday! Charlie still makes a point of coming to minyan as often as possible, with the help of Kathy, his trusted driver and caregiver. He is one of a kind, a true inspiration, loved and respected by all. He can still hit a golf ball, too! Here's to you my friend.



*Steve Silverman
President*

Sisterhood President's Message

Just think folks, it is now March and that means spring is just around the corner. The days are now getting longer and what a pleasure this is.

I hope everyone made their reservations for our annual Purim party. It always proves to be a lively time. So Monday evening, March 9th we hope to see everyone here at the Temple.

Next we will be busy preparing for our annual Passover dinner. So save this date, Tuesday, April 14th. Watch your e-mail for updates, they'll be coming soon. As it is a catered supper you MUST RSVP by April 2nd.

So until next month, keep warm and step carefully.

*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

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Victoria Benevides
Director, Admissions & Marketing

Short Term Rehabilitation • Long Term Care • Respite

e-mail: vbenevides@frjhcares.org

www.fallriverjewishhome.org

SERVICE SCHEDULE

**March 2020:
Adar/Nisan 5780**

<u>Friday, March 6 (10 Adar)</u>	
Candle Lighting	5:24 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, March 7 (11 Adar)</u>	
Weekly Portion: - Tetzaveh	10:00 am
Shabbat Zakhor	
<u>Monday, March 9 (13 Adar)</u>	
Erev Purim	
Fast of Esther	
Reading of the Megillah	5:00 pm
<u>Tuesday, March 10 (14 Adar)</u>	
Purim	
<u>Wednesday, March 11 (15 Adar)</u>	
Shushan Purim	
<u>Friday, March 13 (17 Adar)</u>	
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
Candle Lighting	6:32 pm
<u>Saturday, March 14 (18 Adar)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Ki Tisa	10:00 am
Shabbat Parah	
<u>Friday, March 20 (24 Adar)</u>	
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
Candle Lighting	6:40 pm
<u>Saturday, March 21 (25 Adar)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Vayakhel-Pekudei	10:00 am
Shabbat Hachodesh	
<u>Thursday, March 26 (1 Nisan)</u>	
Rosh Chodesh Nisan	
<u>Friday, March 27 (2 Nisan)</u>	
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
Candle Lighting:	6:48 pm
<u>Saturday, March 28 (3 Nisan)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Vayikra	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:

Only in the event of a snowstorm!

IN MEMORIAM

LOUISE MACY

FEBRUARY 2, 2020 - 7 SHEVAT 5780

MAY HER MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING



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Don't forget to set
clocks ahead
one hour
at 2 a.m.



Sunday, March 8th

TBE News & Notes

Thanks once again to our Events Committee for helping to pull together a very enjoyable **Tu BiShevat Seder** on February 7th. These days this holiday just seems to be getting more and more important as we realize as never before how interconnected our fate is with all life on our Mother Earth!

From one full-moon holiday to the next... we hope to see many of you at our **Purim celebration/Megillah reading on Monday evening, March 9th** – beginning at 5 PM. By the time you get this bulletin, you should have already made a reservation for the celebratory meal. And don't forget to bring some cash for giving *zedakah* – an important *mitzvah* on this holiday.

As Purim is a holiday when a woman saved the day (by making trouble for Haman), it is only fitting that our Purim celebration will include a viewing of the documentary: ***Making Trouble: Three Generations of Funny Jewish Women***. Not to be missed! We note with sadness **the passing on February 5th of Jewish film star Kirk Douglas** (born Issur Danielovitch; December 9, 1916) at the young age of 103! In his honor, our March Jewish film will be ***Cast a Giant Shadow*** (see next column for more information). Sunday, **March 22 at 2 PM**. Hope to see you there!

Looking ahead...

Please mark your calendars for our TBE Passover festive community meal, which will be held on Tuesday, **April 14th, at 5:30 pm**. You will soon receive more information, but for now most important is to **make your reservation (or send in your check) no later than April 2nd**. We look forward to seeing you all there!

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
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SUNDAY AT THE JEWISH MOVIES

“Cast a Giant Shadow”

“Cast a Giant Shadow:” a 1966 big-budget action film based on the life of Colonel Mickey Marcus, starring Kirk Douglas, Senta Berger, Yul Brynner, John Wayne, Frank Sinatra and Angie Dickinson. Melville Shavelson adapted, produced and directed the film, a fictionalized account of the experiences of a real-life Jewish-American military officer, Colonel David “Mickey” Marcus, who commanded units of the fledgling Israel Defense Forces during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. (1 hour, 46 minutes)

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Mike Roberts

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Thank you for your donations received through Feb. 21, 2020

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Yahrzeits

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...	Donated by:
Mother, Birdie Cohen	Fran Cohen
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Mother, Regina Elber	Rabbi Mark Elber
Grandfather, Adolph Feder	Joyce Juda
Father, Seymour Filler	Mark Filler
Father, Joseph Horowitz	Herbert Horowitz
Sister, Irene Kassler Jones	Hannah Evans
Son, Charley Lepow	Virginia Lepow
Loved one, Charles Novek	Novek Family
Father, Charles Rosenberg	Richard Rosenberg
Mother, Tylda Schwartz	Virginia Lepow
Father, Richard Shore	Nancy Shore
Father, Aaron Solotist	Harriet Grunberg
Mother, Mildred Trieff	Richard Trieff
Grandfather, Harry Weissman	Jeffrey Weissman
Mother-in-law, Fannie Woloshen	Charles Stampler
Parents, June & Carl Zeitz	Marjorie Keith

CAPITAL FUND

- In memory of Louise Macy & Janet Smith**
Paula Shaer
- Remembering with love: Grace & Harry Cooperstein, Everett, Nathaniel, Edna, Abraham and Bessie Dashoff, Norman, Elizabeth, Bernie & Paul Chebot**
Nancy Cooperstein Charney
June Wise
- For the recovery of Bill Bissonnette**
Richard Trieff

IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Janet Smith
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RABBI'S & CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of my loving parents, Jack & Esther Mickelson
Beverly Solup

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- In memory of beloved parents, Bernice & Carlton Dubitsky**
Estee & Stanley Dubitsky
- In memory of Harriet Grunberg**
Bill Chebot

LEADERSHIP

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

I believe we are at our best when we remain true to our traditions, when we strive to perfect them and protect them – when we strive to reconcile our role of trying to perfect the world (what we call *Tikkun Olam* in Hebrew) – or at least remain committed to improving and engaging with it rather than isolating ourselves from it. We can't be a light unto the nations if we divorce ourselves from the world around us, nor if we sever our connections to the sources that have nurtured us since Sinai.

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, 2020



The **NEW** Sisterhood Book Club

We have so many choices of good books right now! With input from our club readers, below are our choices for the next four months. Join us the third Wednesday of every month at 10:30 am in the Temple library.



March 18th:
"The Great Alone" by Christian Hannah

April 15th
"Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead

May 20th
"The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett

June 17:"
Where the Crawdad Sings" by Delia Owens

CLIP and SAVE!

Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.

385 High Street, Fall River, MA 02720
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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.

Temple Family

- Our sincere condolences to the family and dear friends of Louise Macy.



Tu BiShevat Seder on February 7th

Everyone had a wonderful time celebrating the New Year for trees and enjoying a healthy repast of fruits, nuts, and three kinds of wine!



Website

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

3/1/2020 5 Adar 5780

Clara Freedman
Morris Levine
Charles Meretsky

3/2/2020 6 Adar 5780

Morris Haims
Edith Kusinitz
Philip Ostroff
Bertha Weinstock
Philip Zalkind

3/3/2020 7 Adar 5780

Adelle Wiener

3/4/2020 8 Adar 5780

Elena Lee Cohen
Ida Glickman
Selma Juda
Mannis Shapiro

3/5/2020 9 Adar 5780

Helen Babin
Rita Minkin

3/6/2020 10 Adar 5780

Leona Finkel
Herbert Fleisher

3/7/2020 11 Adar 5780

Louis I. Galitsky
Hyman B. Gollub
George Sandler

3/8/2020 12 Adar 5780

Louis Bachman
Mollie Cohen
Hyman Levine
Minnie Somer

3/9/2020 13 Adar 5780

Robert M. Cohen
3/11/2020 15 Adar 5780
William Goldman
Vivian Grozen

3/12/2020 16 Adar 5780

Miriam Horvitz
Samuel Katzman
Ethel Liebmann

3/13/2020 17 Adar 5780

Fannie Keppler Halper
Alice Jean Horowitz
Louis Nulman
Irene Stern
Milton Weissman

3/14/2020 18 Adar 5780

Benjamin Cohen
Helen Freedman
Florence Lash
Sylvia Yoken

3/15/2020 19 Adar 5780

William Feinberg
Ruth Levine
Israel Waksler

3/16/2020 20 Adar 5780

Helen Nulman

3/17/2020 21 Adar 5780

William Meyerson
Elsie Pollock
Abraham Trieff

3/18/2020 22 Adar 5780

David Chavenson
Marian Cohen

3/19/2020 23 Adar 5780

Edwin Macy
H. Charles Reiser

3/20/2020 24 Adar 5780

Manuel Hyman
Eva Waksler

3/21/2020 25 Adar 5780

Thelma Greenberg
Lillian Lepes
Janet Weissman

3/22/2020 26 Adar 5780

Minnie Entin
Virginia Granovsky
Fannie Hillman
Frederick Kaplan
Doris Rotenberg

3/23/2020 27 Adar 5780

Jonathan Entin

3/24/2020 28 Adar 5780

Michael Katz
Miriam Reiser
Barry Schwartz
Samuel Stamper

3/25/2020 29 Adar 5780

Rose Oscar
Hadley Wilkinson

3/26/2020 1 Nisan 5780

David Freedman
Arthur Littman

3/27/2020 2 Nisan 5780

Edna Dashoff

3/29/2020 4 Nisan 5780

Max Victor Silverman

3/30/2020 5 Nisan 5780

Milton Lifrak
David Sacknoff

3/31/2020 6 Nisan 5780

Bernard Herman
Barbara Shore
Martha Saxe Sobel



2019 March snowstorm aftermath in the Southeastern MA Bioreserve, Fall River (Corduroy Path)