

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



93rd Year                      November 2020                      Cheshvan/Kislev 5781                      No. 3

## Regular Service Schedule - Via Zoom until further notice

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

*Nature can be harsh...does your family's headstone look more like the "before" or "after" photos below?*



If your headstone(s) could use a facelift, we have good news! Tommy Phillipovich, our cemetery landscaper, has once again offered to pressure-wash the headstones and foot markers using a biodegradable cleanser that won't damage the stones or the surrounding grass. The results are impressive, with the stones looking amazingly like new.

As setting up the equipment is time-consuming, Tommy has offered to do all of the pressure-washing in one day for a discounted price. Headstones will be cleaned for \$60 each, foot markers for \$15 each. In order to take advantage of the discount, we must hear from you no later than November 15th. For those who miss the deadline, the cost for cleaning a headstone will be \$100, each foot marker will be \$25, and they will be cleaned at our landscaper's convenience.

If you have any questions about this service, please call the Temple office (508) 674-3529 or email [templebethel@comcast.net](mailto:templebethel@comcast.net).

A message from our Spiritual Leader,  
Rabbi Mark Elber

*Faith and Courage in the Face of the Future*

Today I went down to One Government Center in Fall River to vote early. By the time you read this it will probably be just around Election Day. Who can predict what that day or the days immediately following it will be like? My hope is that, whatever the results of the election, the country will begin a process of healing some of the serious divisions and rifts that we've been witnessing of late, that people will recognize that for the sake of the greater good, we must find a way to listen to each other respectfully and seek ways to draw together. I've been talking about this issue for quite a while now.

November's Torah portions begin with *Vayera* which opens with a scene in which Abraham is sitting at the entrance of his tent seeing "three people" passing by who will give him a sense of what is in store for him. The month's portions end with *Vayetzei* which culminates with Jacob encountering angels just before he is about to return to the land of Canaan and re-engage with his brother Esau after twenty years. So much happens during the course of November's four Torah portions.

This month's Torah readings depict the early generations of the Jewish people. Just as we are at the beginning of 5781, the Torah readings are talking of beginnings too. Abraham is told in *Vayera* that he will have a child with Sarah in a year's time. We read that Abraham will become a great and numerous nation and that the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. In our tradition Abraham is seen by our rabbinic sages as the embodiment of the quality of *chesed*, of lovingkindness. The Jewish people, that is the descendants of Abraham and Sarah, according to our sages, are characterized by the quality of *rakhmanut*, of compassion (*rokhmones* in Yiddish). Right after the Torah speaks of the nations of the world being blessed in the future through Abraham, Abraham argues with G'd over the destruction of the city of Sodom claiming that if there are righteous people in Sodom, the Judge (*shofet*) of all the earth must act with justice (*mishpat*) and not destroy the good along with the bad.

There is an amazing amount of *chutzpah* in Abraham's arguing with G'd and he's quite aware of that, but that doesn't stop him from making his case. In one of the extremely rare moments in the Torah where we are exposed to the thought of a person rather than perceiving the person purely from the outside via a description of speech and action, we read of Abraham remarking to himself that he is but "dust and ashes" yet is addressing the Eternal Lord.

Of course, we are not Abraham, Isaac and Jacob or Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel or Leah, but the Torah stories are very human stories. We can recognize our own human qualities in the actions and characteristics of the matriarchs and patriarchs. They were not perfect people, they lived with struggles and challenges too. Abraham recognizes that he is but "dust and ashes." That is very humbling. Yet at the same time that does not stop him from arguing for justice with the "Judge of all the earth."

It is easy to feel that we are impotent in the face of all the challenges that we are presented with in our own era. Virtually every historical period has stood at some kind of crossroads, where important things in a society seemed to be at stake. The modern era is replete with moments like this, some of which are catalyzed by the increasingly rapid changes society witnesses. Strikingly, already back in the 1840s, the French poet Baudelaire spoke of "modernity" as "the experience of life lived in fragments, the swift pace of change in our time, fragmenting experience." If that was true then, how much more so is it true now?

Are we facing the fragmentation of our society with the divisions we see around various issues? Though the hurdles and challenges are great, there is also great opportunity that presents itself in challenging times. Individuals can make a difference, whether a small difference or a large difference. Along the way there's a need for an element of faith in other human beings and in future possibilities. Someone believed in the future of Fall River and moved here, started a business here, opened a school here. Someone or some number of people believed in the future of the Jewish community here in Fall River and built Temple Beth El. All these positive changes require courage. Someone or some group invents something, has an insight, or stands for something noble, uplifting, inspiring and inspiring. Someone or some group stands for justice in the face of injustice, or compassion in the face of coldness and indifference.

At the end of this month's Torah readings, Jacob is about to see his brother Esau again after twenty years. The last time they saw each other, it didn't go so well. Jacob doesn't know what will transpire when they see each other again. He is frightened, but he knows he has to return to Canaan and confront his past and his future. It took great courage. In the past he ran away, but now he has grown into a person who will not avoid confronting what needs to be confronted. No matter how difficult and challenging things may be or become we can never afford to give up hope and conviction about the possibility of change – change for the better. Issues that may have seemed insurmountable at some point, have been overcome with commitment, patience, and courage to not give up in the face of challenges. That is as true today as it ever was.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

What a strange feeling it is to return to the way things were before the High Holidays. The month or so after the holidays is always a chance to catch our collective breath after all of the planning and preparation that goes into making our services and holiday events so special. But this year it is different. Going back to being closed is so strange, and more than a little anti-climactic. Still, we feel we must continue to be cautious, particularly as the Covid numbers continue to increase in many parts of the country.

Thank goodness for Zoom. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana haven’t missed a beat, and after celebrating Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah on Zoom, they are now adding the Monday morning Adult Ed class to their regular Zoom schedule. I feel badly for those who don’t have computer access, but we are very happy to offer this safe and convenient way to stay connected to all of those who do.

I wanted to thank all those who made donations for seat fees for the High Holidays. We had several non-members come to services in person after RSVPing, and we also had several others who sent in generous donations who simply watched our services via live-streaming. We were happy to be able to share our services with friends as well as congregants from all around the country. We have never been able to say that before!

I would like to wish Beth Bark much luck as she moves to her new home in Florida. She has been a valued member of the board and we will miss her input. Thank you for your service, be safe down there in the Sunshine State and keep in touch!

Lastly I would like to thank Touro Fraternal Organization for picking up the tab for our police presence at the High Holidays. With the state of the world today it was reassuring to have them there, and having Touro cover the cost was truly a mitzvah.

Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving. Stay safe, be creative, and enjoy!

Steve Silverman  
President

LEADERSHIP

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

Sisterhood President’s Message

It’s November and we are still living with the threat of Covid-19 hanging over our heads. When are we going to get a reprieve from this already? I can’t speak for anyone else, but I’ve just about had it. Hopefully, things will get better.

The holidays went off without any problems. I hope everyone who didn’t go to the Temple was able to enjoy the “live stream.” The transmission was excellent. Thank you to Andy Polin, you too Larry, for helping to make it happen.

I want to acknowledge and thank Touro Fraternal Organization for helping to provide the security we needed for the Temple over the High Holidays. It is a Jewish charitable organization out of Cranston, Rhode Island. Several of our members belong to this group. Again, thank you.

As you know, Sisterhood paid for the flowers on the *bimah*. Elaine Weiss Reback did a great job, as usual, and they were lovely. There was no formal solicitation for donations, but several people responded to our request in the last bulletin and sent in donations to offset the cost, and on behalf of Sisterhood I thank you. They are listed below. If anyone would care to make a donation, please make it out to Temple Beth El Sisterhood and it will be acknowledged.

As some of you are aware, I had a rough winter myself. I’m slowly getting back to normal, thank G-d. I want to thank the following people that made donations to the Temple for my recovery: Anita and Norm Bolski, Sylvia Eisner, Elaine Weiss Reback and Harvey Reback and Beverly Solup. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Hopefully everyone is able to enjoy Thanksgiving this year, no matter how you choose to celebrate. I wish you all the very best.

So until next month, stay safe and healthy.

Libby Cohen  
Sisterhood President

High Holy Days Flower Fund

Thank you to the following people who generously donated to this year’s special Flower Fund:

- Sumner Alpert
- Susan Bender
- Bill Chebot, in memory of Hummy
- Iris Katzman
- Elaine and Harvey Reback
- Carol and Ron Schwartz
- Rick Schwartz



## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**November 2020  
Cheshvan/Kislev 5781***Services will continue to be on Zoom.*Friday, November 6 (19 Cheshvan)Candle Lighting 4:15 pm  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pmSaturday, November 7 (20 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Vayera 10:00 am

Friday, November 13 (26 Cheshvan)Candle Lighting 4:08 pm  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pmSaturday, November 14 (27 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Chayei Sara 10:00 am

Tuesday, November 17 (1 Kislev)

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Friday, November 20 (4 Kislev)Candle Lighting 4:02 pm  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pmSaturday, November 21 (5 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Toldot 10:00 am

Friday, November 27 (11 Kislev)Candle Lighting 3:58 pm  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pmSaturday, November 28 (12 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayetzei 10:00 am

**Temple Family**

- Our deepest condolences to Debra Sandler and family on the loss of her beloved mother, Charlotte Sandler, and to the family and friends of Muriel "Tudy" Feldman. Both were very active Sisterhood members in their day!
- Best wishes to our board member, Beth-Ann Bark, as she relocates to her brand new home in Florida. Take care and enjoy the warmth!

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.

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**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday, Wednesday &amp; Friday, 9 am to Noon

**OFFICE CLOSED:**

Wednesday, November 11th - Veterans Day  
Thursday, November 26th - Thanksgiving

*Dear Temple Beth El,**We Zoomed your services through the Jewish Holidays and enjoyed them very much.**Thank you for allowing us to share this mitzvah.**Gary & Leila Kosofsky*

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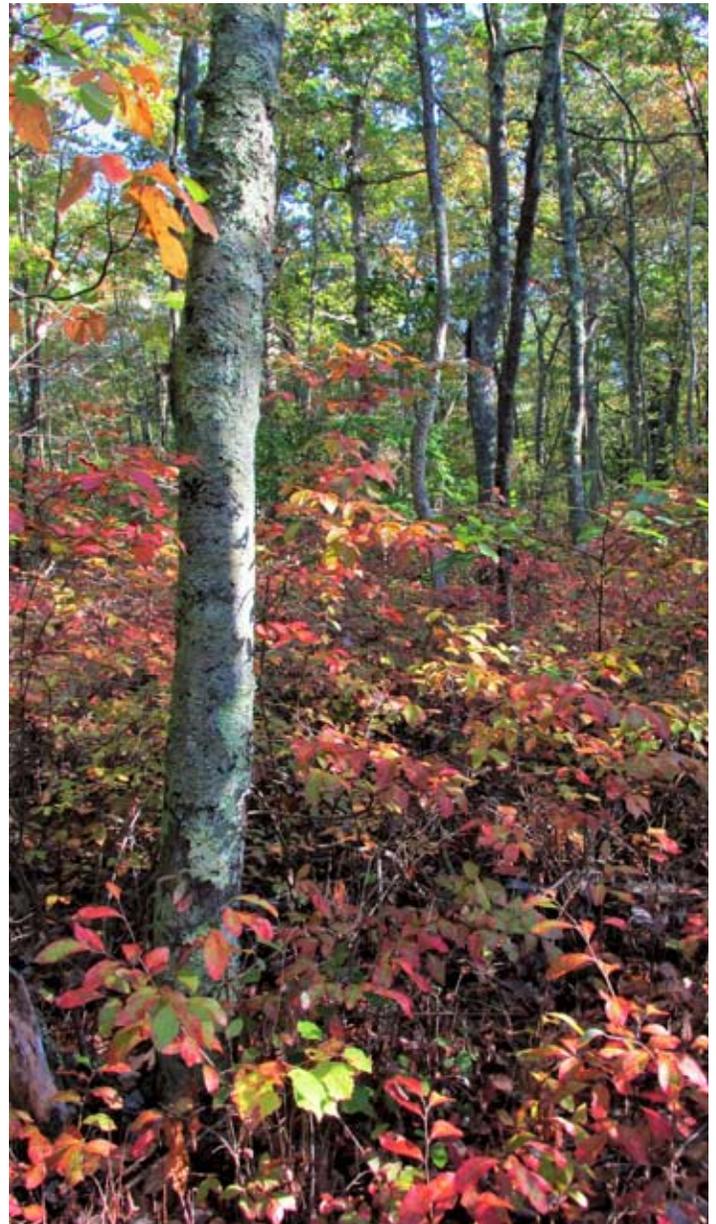
## TBE News & Notes

Rabbi Mark and I want to **thank all who participated** in our lively and innovative (if I do say so myself) recent **Simchat Torah** service - especially **Jeff Ginsberg, Sylvia Eisner, Bill Chebot, and Daniel Schafler**, all of whom gave mini-"divrei Torah" ("Torah talks") on the various books of the Torah during the time when we would normally be dancing with the scrolls of the Torah for the seven "*hakafot*." Despite our inability to gather in person, the lack of scrolls, and the absence of dancing, we managed to pull off a very *freylekh* celebration. It was wonderful to experience teaching from our fellow congregants, and each of these teachers spoke from their heart. We missed our traditional cold-cut dinner afterwards, but these words from the heart sustained us and gave us true *simchah* (joy).

Now that we have **finally reached November**, we are into "normal" time - with no Jewish holidays coming up until Chanukah (first night, December 10th). Alas, this year we will **not be holding our Ruderman Shabbaton Weekend** (for obvious reasons). But we are **re-starting our Monday morning Adult Education Class** via Zoom. **The first class will be Monday, November 2nd**, but if you missed the email blast announcing it (with the Zoom link), **you can still join!** Just get in touch with the TBE office and ask Marie to send you a link. We will be holding class **Mondays from 10:30 to 12 noon** on a variety of topics - initially having to do with Jewish texts, but as in the past our topics change regularly throughout the year, depending on the interests of the class.

Rabbi Mark continues to hold his **Hebrew classes** via Zoom, and **our services continue on Zoom** every Friday at 5:30; Shabbat morning at 10:00; and Monday and Thursday mornings at 8:00. If you have never joined us, or have not joined us in awhile, please log on - we want to see you! **Please get in touch with the office if you need the links.**

This is truly a unique and difficult time we are living through - thank you to all who participate and in other ways support the continued life of our Temple Beth El community - we will have a big celebration when this pandemic is finally over - hang in there!



## IN MEMORIAM

MURIEL "TUDY" FELDMAN  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 – 12 TISHREI 5781

CHARLOTTE SANDLER  
SEPTEMBER 30 - 12 TISHREI 5781

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING



*Thank you for your donations received through October 23, 2020*

### Yahrzeits

<b>For the yearzeit of my beloved...</b>	Donated by:
<b>Father, Hammond Bender</b>	Susan Bender
<b>Wife, Marilyn Ehrenhaus</b>	Abraham Ehrenhaus
<b>Husband &amp; Father,</b>	Charlotte Fradkin & Family
<b>Dr. Irving Fradkin</b>	
<b>Friend, Dr. Irving Fradkin</b>	Rose & Alan Arruda
<b>Grandfather, Jacob Brown</b>	Howard Galitsky
<b>Parents, Max &amp; Edith Gold</b>	Micki Gold
<b>Mother, Esther Kaufman</b>	Etta Kaufman
<b>Mother, Rose Krasnow</b>	Carol Schwartz
<b>Brother, Stewart R. Kusinitz</b>	Edith K. Getchell
<b>Brother, Stewart R. Kusinitz</b>	Enid K. Lomax
<b>Husband, Stewart R. Kusinitz</b>	Lisa L. Kusinitz
<b>Father, Jack Leonard</b>	Marion Wilner
<b>Father, Dr. Harry Levine</b>	Alan & Anita Levine
<b>Father, Dr. Harry Levine</b>	Richard Levine
<b>Mother, Phyllis Littman</b>	Ken Littman & Family
<b>Father, Irving Lovit</b>	Avis Lovit Kotovsky
<b>Husband, Stanley Margolies</b>	Marian Margolies
<b>Mother-in-law, Frances Meretsky</b>	Shirley Meretsky
<b>Father, Solomon Moss</b>	Shirley Taradash
<b>Grandmother, Sadie Smith</b>	Judith & Frank Kosofsky
<b>Grandmother, Sadie Smith</b>	Barbara Udovin
<b>Mother, Elsie Udovin</b>	Barbara Udovin
<b>Brother-in-law, Joseph Woloshen</b>	Charles Stampler

### MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

**For the yearzeit of my grandmother, Libby Alpert**  
**For the yearzeit of my brother-in-law, Carl Goodman**  
**For the yearzeit of my grandson, Alex Pankiw**  
 Sumner Alpert

### CAPITAL FUND

**In memory of Muriel "Tudy" Feldman**  
 Fran Cohen  
 Dr. Ron & Carol Schwartz

**In memory of Charlotte Sandler**  
 Fran Cohen  
 Marilyn Sokoll

**In memory of Norman Somer**  
 Amy Weiss

### ANNA & MORRIS LEPES CEMETERY FUND

**In memory of Anna & Morris Lepes**  
 Ellen and Terry Shand & Family

### RABBI'S & CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**In honor of the great job on Zoom for our High Holidays**  
 Dr. Ron & Carol Schwartz

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

**In memory of N. Kenneth & Ruth Shand**  
 Ellen and Terry Shand & Family

### WISH LIST - PRAYER BOOKS

**For the yearzeit of my beloved mother, Elizabeth Chebot**  
**For the recovery of George Haire**  
**Thanks to dear friend Tom Gregory for his quiet and modest assistance, always ready to help, the perfect gentleman.**  
**Thanks to Elaine and Harvey Reback for delivering Machzorim to residents for the High Holidays.**  
**Thanks to Elaine Weiss Reback for arranging for the beautiful floral arrangements for the Bimah for the Holidays.**  
**Thanks to Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana for bringing dignity to unfortunately abbreviated services.**  
**Thanks to Rabbi Mark for his excellent pitching-in as Ba'al Tekia**  
**Thanks to Marie Twomey – always helpful and efficient, shouldering the tremendous tasks of all the details of the High Holidays with a great personality and doing it single-handedly!**  
 Bill Chebot

**In memory of my loved ones:**  
**Steven Feldman**  
**Maurice & Sylvia Feldman**  
**Isadore & Dora Feldman**  
**Samuel & Golda Berg**  
**Max & Ida Fleisher**  
 David Feldman

**For the yearzeit of my beloved sister, Shelley Fox**  
**In honor of the marriage of my daughter, Lauren Finkel to Drew Levey**  
**For the recovery of Anne Griffin**  
**For all my friends/sisters of Temple Beth El, stay safe and healthy!**  
 Suzi Finkel

### SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

Cemetery Monuments and Lettering

#### Jeffrey Weissman

Partner

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 Massachusetts 02720

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 (508) 679-9704 fax  
 jeffnjan11@comcast.net



*Thank you to Cantor Shoshana for sharing her wonderful photography with all of us. The outdoor photos in this bulletin show the beautiful colors of October in the Fall River/Freetown State Forest.*

*And a belated thank you to Rick Schwartz and Elaine Weiss Reback for all of the terrific photos of the High Holidays in the October bulletin!*

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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](http://www.frtemplebethel.org)

## YAHARZEITS

11/1/2020 14 Cheshvan 5781  
Isidor Juda  
Bessie Kassler

11/2/2020 15 Cheshvan 5781  
Rae Gitlin

11/3/2020 16 Cheshvan 5781  
Morris A. Freedman  
Celia Sanft

11/4/2020 17 Cheshvan 5781  
Lillian Feinberg  
Diana Hyman  
Erwin Juda

11/5/2020 18 Cheshvan 5781  
Dr. Irving Fradkin  
Ruth Lustig  
David Somer

11/6/2020 19 Cheshvan 5781  
Jacob Brown  
Lorraine Kaplan  
Samuel Lechan

11/7/2020 20 Cheshvan 5781  
Sylvia Feldman

11/8/2020 21 Cheshvan 5781  
Helene Bender  
Hyman Edward Lepes  
Yetta Sludsky

11/10/2020 23 Cheshvan 5781  
Bessie Bolski  
Marion Horvitz  
Joseph Simmons

11/11/2020 24 Cheshvan 5781  
Lawrence Howard Golding

11/12/2020 25 Cheshvan 5781  
Leo Greene  
Dr. David Greer

11/13/2020 26 Cheshvan 5781  
Anna Zalkind

11/14/2020 27 Cheshvan 5781  
Harold Katzman

11/15/2020 28 Cheshvan 5781  
Ada Gourse

11/16/2020 29 Cheshvan 5781  
Doris Becker  
Seymour Kevelson  
Alfred Kublin  
Carl Zeitz

11/18/2020 2 Kislev 5781  
Ethel Bernstein  
Francis Sokoll

11/20/2020 4 Kislev 5781  
Harry Finkelstein  
Anne Gregory  
Paul Horowitz  
Louis Weinstock  
Donald Wiener  
Myron Wilner  
Lillian Woltman

11/21/2020 5 Kislev 5781  
Bennett Alpert  
Neilson Caplain  
Gladys Shapiro

11/22/2020 6 Kislev 5781  
Ida Z. David

11/23/2020 7 Kislev 5781  
Francis F. Levin  
Leah Reback

11/24/2020 8 Kislev 5781  
Dr. Barry Steinberg

11/25/2020 9 Kislev 5781  
Tillie Ruderman  
Esther Weissman

11/26/2020 10 Kislev 5781  
Edward Adaskin  
Julius Grozen  
Eric Lawson  
David Nadien

11/28/2020 12 Kislev 5781  
Sadie Katersky

11/29/2020 13 Kislev 5781  
David Cohen

11/30/2020 14 Kislev 5781  
Hattie Caplain

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