

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



93rd Year

October 2020

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5781

No. 2

## 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

## OCTOBER SPECIAL SERVICES

### SUKKOT - VIA ZOOM

First Day: Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 am  
 Second Day: Sunday, October 4th at 10:00 am  
 (Due to the impossibility of social distancing, there will be no Sukkah this year)

### SHEMINI ATZERET - VIA ZOOM

Saturday, October 10th at 10:00 am  
 Yizkor at approximately 11:45 am

### SIMCHAT TORAH - VIA ZOOM

Erev Simchat Torah: Saturday, October 10th at 7:00 pm  
 Simchat Torah : Sunday, October 11th at 10:00 am



Above is the view of the live-streaming feed. The sound was great, too!

Flowers were on the bimah for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. There were three arrangements for each holiday and they were gorgeous!

A message from our Spiritual Leader,  
Cantor Shoshana Brown

## Next Year in Peace and Wholeness

We keep saying that we are living in “strange times” – having used the adjective “unprecedented” so many times recently that one is reluctant to pronounce it anymore. I can hear Inigo Montoya, played by Mandy Patinkin, in *The Princess Bride* commenting to his criminal boss, Vizzini (Wally Shawn), who keeps using the word “inconceivable!”: “You keep-a using that-a word...I don’t-a think it means what you think it means!”

Why did Inigo say this? Because all of the things that Vizzini thought were “inconceivable” kept happening. And with us, too, the “unprecedented” has been happening so frequently that one would almost think it means something like “Oh, *this* again!”

Who would have thought last March as we were celebrating Purim (just starting to be extra-careful about wiping things down and not giving one another hugs or kisses), that six months later we would be coming back together for the first time (in a much attenuated form), holding High Holiday services to a sparse, well-spaced live congregation wearing masks in our sanctuary, with some fifty others watching online? Who would have thought that the Israeli government would order its second lockdown to begin on Erev Rosh Hashana, so that Israeli Jews could not experience even this amount of “normality” (although, of course, it is more important that they stem the rising infection rates) – or that thousands of Jews on the West Coast, or along the Gulf Coast, would experience their holidays with their lives in mortal danger from flooding or fires?

Strange times indeed. Never had the list of life-threatening dangers in the prayer *U’netana Tokef* seemed so possible as phenomena that might actually happen to us in this day and age:

*...who shall live out the limit of their days,  
and who shall not; who shall perish by fire and  
who by water...who by hunger and who by thirst,  
who by earthquake and who by plague...who shall  
rest and who shall wander, who shall be at peace  
and who shall be tormented...*

Now I don’t believe that God “decrees” these things for any of us; but I *do* believe that, as our liturgy proclaims, the *human* actions of *t’shuvah* (changing our ways), *t’fillah* (attention to our spiritual life) and *tz’dakah* (doing justice and being charitable) *can* avert some of these potential disasters.

By the time you get this October bulletin, we will most likely be well into the week of *Sukkot*. Sadly, we will not be able to “dwell in booths” together this year, but even if you cannot build a home-sukkah yourself, I urge you to build a *virtual* sukkah in your imagination: imagine yourself sitting outdoors, between a sukkah’s fragile walls, hearing the *skakh*, the leafy-branch roof-covering rustling in the breeze, with patches of sunlight playing through it onto the table, and think for a moment of all of the generations of Jews who wandered...through the desert after their escape from Egypt; through all of our many places of wandering after both the Babylonian Exile and the exile forced upon us by Rome. Our existence is all-too fragile, and yet, like the taste of challah, apples and honey in a sukkah on a sunny early autumn day during *Sukkot*, shared with family or friends, it is also sweet.

As I write these words, I don’t yet know what our *Simchat Torah* will be like this year – except that it will not be “traditional.” But I hope that you will try to join us on our *Simchat Torah* Zoom service. We will share words of Torah, we will sing songs of *simchah* (joy), because, even if joy is not what we are feeling, *song* can help reactivate this spiritual well within us, at least for the time that we are together – in whatever way we can *be* together.

I want to thank everyone who helped make our High Holy Days go as well as they did under such circumstances and all who attended either in person or online. We *are* holding one another up as a community during this strange, difficult time. At the end of Yom Kippur we sing:

*L’shanah ha-ba biY’rushalayim* – Next year in Jerusalem!

Well, I doubt that we will all literally see one another next year in *Yerushalayim*, but may we all celebrate together next year at Temple Beth El in peace (*shalom*) and in wholeness (*shleimut*).

Blessings to you all for a sweet, healthy New Year.

Cantor Shoshana

## 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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new year I want to reflect about the past six months. Just after Purim the world changed, and within days we decided to close the Temple and wait out the Coronavirus. We canceled Passover, even though it seemed miles away. Rabbi Mark then led the way in utilizing Zoom, not only as a way for our members to participate in services from the safety of their homes, but also for board and committee meetings. One great aspect of Zoom is that it has allowed our members living near and far (including several in their 90's) to participate in our services and meetings on a regular basis. We may have to figure out how to continue to stream our services once our doors are open again so that people from all over can continue to participate, but I am afraid that is still a ways down the road as we once again hunker down and wait until it is safe to gather together once more.

After seeing the results of the High Holiday survey, the board agreed that we really should try our best to offer in-person services for the High Holidays, provided we could do it safely. After several meetings and much planning, we were able to invite those who reserved a seat to come and enjoy the services in our beautiful sanctuary, while also offering live-streaming via Zoom for those who were unable to attend or simply preferred to watch from home.

I am delighted to report that everything went remarkably to plan. Everyone who came to the Temple was happy to comply with our requests, all of which were safety-driven. Everyone wore their masks, confirmed that they were healthy, had their temperature taken and chose socially distanced seats. We had extra help on hand, as well as several board members to help with the check-in process. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana did a fabulous job of paring down the services to two hours or less while keeping them meaningful and spiritual, and the live-streaming went so well that several of our out-of-town members called to say how much it meant to them to be able to be a part of our services from afar. Being able to offer something to everyone for our High Holidays was extremely important to us, and I hope you agree that we did our best to make that happen.

We could not have done it without the leadership of the board, with special thanks to Rick Schwartz, Dan Schafler and Ken Littman for helping with the check-in process. Rick also helped secure many of the supplies and helped design the new procedures. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana spent countless hours working to keep the services to two hours, and they pulled it off in fine fashion. Marie Twomey has been invaluable, making sure we had everything we needed to open safely, and drawing up many of

the new procedures from scratch. George Haire has been diligent about being here to open, close, receive flower deliveries and make sure the building was ready, all despite feeling lousy as he fights the battle of his life against cancer. We were also very fortunate to hire Henry Parker, who coordinated with George and Marie to really get the building into shape before the High Holidays, and he did a fantastic job. Thanks, too, to Arleen Bor, who once again stepped up to help wherever we needed her. Thanks again to Andy Polin for donating the equipment for the live-streaming, and to the techs who filmed the services and made sure everything worked flawlessly. Thank you to Elaine Weiss Reback and Sisterhood for taking care of the flowers, which were gorgeous and perfect for this year. Thank you to all who made last-minute donations to the Flower Fund. Thank you to Cantor Shoshana and Elaine for delivering prayer books to our local members. Thank you to everyone who came to services and followed all of our safety regulations. If I missed anyone, please forgive me. We have often said, "it takes a village," but never has it been more applicable than this year.

It is in times like these, when we all come together to make the best of the current circumstances, that I am very humbled to be a part of this warm and wonderful community. Please stay safe and healthy, and let us know if we can help.

*Steve Silverman*  
President

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## *Sisterhood President's Message*

We are now into the year 5781, and hoping it brings all of us good health, safety, security and happiness. I personally look forward to a return to some normalcy.

If you were unable to visit the Temple for services, I hope you were able to enjoy the "live streaming" of the festivities. There was a lot of work put into making this happen.

As you know by now, we did not have a formal Flower Fund drive this year. But fear not, once we knew there would be services at the temple, Sisterhood made sure we had flowers for the Bimah. Elaine Reback worked with the florist, and they were beyond beautiful. Anyone who would like to make a donation towards these flowers, please send in a check to the Temple and you will be acknowledged in the November Bulletin.

So, until next month, stay safe.

*Libby Cohen*  
Sisterhood President

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**October 2020**  
**Tishrei/Cheshvan 5781**

*Services will continue to be on Zoom. Please check your email for special links for Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.*

Friday, October 2 (14 Tishrei)

Erev Sukkot	
Shabbat/Sukkot Service	5:30 pm
Candle Lighting	6:06 pm

Saturday, October 3 (15 Tishrei)

Sukkot – First Day	10:00 am
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Sunday, October 4 (16 Tishrei)

Sukkot – Second Day	10:00 am
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Friday, October 9 (21 Tishrei)

Hoshana Rabba	
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
Candle Lighting	5:55 pm

Saturday, October 10 (22 Tishrei)

Shemini Atzeret	10:00 am
Yizkor (approximately 11:45am)	
Erev Simchat Torah	7:00 pm

Sunday, October 11 (23 Tishrei)

Simchat Torah	10:00 am
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Friday, October 16 (28 Tishrei)

Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
Candle Lighting	5:43 pm

Saturday, October 17 (29 Tishrei)

Weekly Portion: Bereshit	10:00 am
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Sunday, October 18 (30 Tishrei)

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan	
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Monday, October 19 (1 Cheshvan)

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan	
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Friday, October 23 (5 Cheshvan)

Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
Candle Lighting	5:33 pm

Saturday, October 24 (6 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Noakh	10:00 am
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Friday, October 30 (12 Cheshvan)

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

Saturday, October 31 (13 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Lekh-Lekha	10:00 am
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**TEMPLE OFFICE**

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**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9 am to Noon

**OFFICE CLOSED:**

Monday, October 12 - Columbus Day

**STAFF UPDATE AND THANKS!**

First, thank you all for the support, thanks, words of appreciation and offers of help when things got so busy before the High Holidays. I always feel so appreciated here!

Next, I wanted to thank George Haire for steadfastly being here for us before, during and after the High Holidays. George has been fighting cancer and it has taken a lot out of him, but he keeps facing one day at a time and following the doctors' orders. Please keep him in your prayers as he fights this terrible illness. Thank you George!

Please join me in welcoming our new custodian, Henry Parker, who was hired part-time to help George. He worked in the Hanover building for years and Dr. Reback gave him a glowing reference. He worked hard to help get everything ready for the High Holidays, and did a great job. He also fogged the temple after the services! Thank you Henry!

Next is Arleen Bor, who once again offered to do whatever she could to help during the High Holidays. She was at every service, checking people in and keeping things sanitized. Thank you Arleen!

Tom Gregory also came to our rescue, yet again, by changing some lights in the ceiling above the bimah before Rosh Hashanah. He tried to explain to me exactly how to get up there, but when he got to the part where you have to "shimmy on your tummy, preferably backwards, through a hole in the wall" I started to chuckle. A few hours later, in walks Tom, unbidden, not only to change the lights for us but to show Henry how to do it. Tom continues to help us out in many quiet ways, always with his trademark grin. Thank you Tom!

Lastly I want to thank Judy Morgenstern, who, while continuing to stay at home, has helped me with innumerable projects, and she is always just a phone call away. I really miss her in the office, but I think we speak more now than we did before. I've warned her about one thing though, I haven't filed a thing since March! Thank you Judy, for all that you do, regardless of where your office is!

*Marie*

## TBE News & Notes

Thank you to our **TBE Board**, to **Marie Twomey**, to **George Haire** and his assistants, **Henry Parker** and **Arleen Bor**, and to our audio-visual technicians **Keith** and **Mike** who were sent to us by **Andrew Polin** to create an accessible way for all of our community to join us online for our High Holy Days in the TBE sanctuary.

The sanctuary was beautiful, as always, and sparkling clean, and beautified by our holiday flower arrangements thanks to the efforts of **Elaine Weiss Reback**, and to all who gave generously to the Flower Fund, for making sure that we did not lack flowers this year!

It was such a huge effort to be able to have at least some of our community in our sanctuary last month; so much preparation went into it! But now we are for the time being going back to our **praying-and-learning-from-home** modality. This will be a quite unusual and a somewhat sad way to spend the eight-day period of Sukkot/Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah, and alas, **there will be no TBE sukkah this year**. However, for those who want a chance to fulfill the **mitzvah of sitting in a sukkah** (to say the blessing, and perhaps consume a snack while there) please call the office or otherwise get in touch with the rabbi or cantor, and we will **make arrangements for you to come to our home sukkah on Walnut Street**. You can also have a chance to **wave the lulav** and the four species while there. (Don't forget to bring a mask!)

Looking forward to the days when we can gather together again in a normal fashion, I have been occasionally screening **films of Jewish interest** for the time when we can resume our "Sunday Afternoon at the Jewish Movies" series. **If you know of a film that you think should be part of the series** when we get back to "normal," please send your suggestion along to cantorshoshana@gmail.com.

Finally, we know this can be a lonely, isolating period! If you would like **a call from the rabbi or cantor** for any reason, or just to chat, please call the TBE office and leave your name and number. We look forward to speaking with you!



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Thank you for all of the cards, notes and emails wishing us a happy New Year, as well as the notes simply to touch base and wish us well, and others who let us know how much they enjoyed the High Holiday services. Each and every one brightened our day! Below is just one example, from Dr. Florence Schlam, who watched the live-streaming service on Zoom.



*Dear Rabbi and Cantor,*

*Thank you wholeheartedly for a very meaningful, elegant, great Yom Kippur Service. Warm best wishes for much happiness in the New Year.*

*Florence Schlam*



The mums were humongous!



*Thank you for your donations received through September 25, 2020*

**Yahrzeits**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...	Donated by:
Father, Louis Cohen	Anne Griffin
Mother, Mary Dolinski	Geraldine Miller
Mother, Freda Finkelstein	Joel Finkelstein
Husband, Gerald Goldberg	Glenda Goldberg
Husband, Henry S. Griffin, Jr.	Anne Griffin
Mother, Lillian Horvitz	Sharon Steinberg
Son, Jonathan "J.D." Lash	Sheila Lash
Husband, Hyman Laudon	Anita Laudon
Father, Atty. Isador S. Levin	Ruth Levin
Mother, Celia Levine	Julius Levine
Father, Gerhard Lowenstein	Ronald Lowenstein
Friend, Jacob (Jack) Mintz	Rose & Alan Arruda
Mother-in-law Ruth Novek Rodman	Meryl Novek
Father, Edward Singer	Pamela Pierce
Father, Lester Schwartz	Rick & Dan Schwartz
Wife, Carol Zalkind	Stanley Zalkind

**MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved mother, Lillian Silverman Alpert  
 For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Maurice Alpert  
 Sumner Alpert

**CAPITAL FUND**

In honor of the marriage of Howard & Cheri Freedman  
 Lauren & Michael Corkin  
 In memory of Steven Feldman  
 Susan Bender  
 For the recovery of Charles Auclair  
 Rose & Alan Arruda

**BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND**

For the yahrzeit of my dear father, Philip Dondis  
 For the yahrzeit of my dear mother, Emma Loeff Dondis  
 For the yahrzeit of my dear brother, Nathan David Dondis  
 Happy birthday wishes to my brother, Eli Dondis  
 Happy birthday wishes to my nephew, Philip Horowitz  
 Arlyne Dondis

**BUILDING FUND**

In honor of Tom Gregory, for his kindness and generosity  
 Rabbi Mark Elber & Cantor Shoshana Brown

**WISH LIST - HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOKS**

Sumner Alpert  
 Norm & Anita Bolski  
 In memory of my mother-in-law, Celia Soorkis  
 --Bill Chebot  
 Sheila Lash  
 Joyce Rosenthal  
 Carol Schwartz  
 Steve & Glenn Sherman  
 In memory of my parents, Dorothy & Jerry Gold,  
 and in-laws, Irene & Atty Nathan Sokoletsky  
 --Karen Sokol  
 Stephen Yoken



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Checking in for High Holiday services during the time of Covid. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana shared the table on the bimah so the service was easier to video, but they found it also helped them to keep to the tight schedule. Tom Gregory replaced the two lights directly above them.



If you were unable to pick up a copy of the 2019-2020 **Book of Remembrance**, it is now available to view on our website! There are also lots of new articles, including the whole series of Cantor Shoshana's "Corona Chronicles," Rabbi Mark's dvar torah discussions, and an article about this year's Rosh Hashanah services by Charlie Winokoor that was published in the Herald News.

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

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

# YAHARZEITS

10/2/2020 14 Tishrei 5781  
Gerald Goldberg  
Jonathan Lash  
Atty. Richard Levin

10/3/2020 15 Tishrei 5781  
Ruth Shand

10/4/2020 16 Tishrei 5781  
Ida Fleisher  
Dr. Harry Levine

10/5/2020 17 Tishrei 5781  
Arlene Friedman

10/6/2020 18 Tishrei 5781  
Rabbi Samuel S. Ruderman  
June Zeitz

10/7/2020 19 Tishrei 5781  
Suetelle Bernstein  
Henry Griffin, Jr.  
Charlotte Litchman  
Sadie E. Smith

10/8/2020 20 Tishrei 5781  
Esther Kaufman  
Frances Meretsky

10/9/2020 21 Tishrei 5781  
Benjamin Horvitz  
Rose Krasnow  
Marilyn Radovsky

10/10/2020 22 Tishrei 5781  
Dr. Gerson Elber  
Sarah Katzman  
Pearl Markell

10/11/2020 23 Tishrei 5781  
Carl Goodman  
Jack Leonard

10/12/2020 24 Tishrei 5781  
Norman Cohen

10/13/2020 25 Tishrei 5781  
Solomon Moss

10/15/2020 27 Tishrei 5781  
Elizabeth M. Chebot  
Luba Twersky

10/16/2020 28 Tishrei 5781  
Sara Malin

10/17/2020 29 Tishrei 5781  
Max Gold  
Stewart Kusinitz  
Joseph Zalkind

10/18/2020 30 Tishrei 5781  
Phyllis Littman

10/19/2020 1 Cheshvan 5781  
Rachel Ellsas  
Max Katz

10/20/2020 2 Cheshvan 5781  
Mildred Lider

10/21/2020 3 Cheshvan 5781  
Juliet Ann Goldstein

10/22/2020 4 Cheshvan 5781  
Hammond Bender

10/23/2020 5 Cheshvan 5781  
Helen Entin  
Leonard Freedman  
David Robbins  
Bernard Shuman

10/24/2020 6 Cheshvan 5781  
Alexander Pankiw  
Jessie Simpson  
Benjamin Twersky

10/25/2020 7 Cheshvan 5781  
Jennie Robinson

10/26/2020 8 Cheshvan 5781  
Libbie Alpert

10/27/2020 9 Cheshvan 5781  
Bernard Hoffman

10/28/2020 10 Cheshvan 5781  
Anna Simmons

10/30/2020 12 Cheshvan 5781  
Betty Rosenberg

10/31/2020 13 Cheshvan 5781  
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Mary Gollub  
Lenora Goltz  
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