

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



90th Year

December 2017

Kislev/Tevet 5778

No. 4

Regular Service Schedule

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

RSVP Now for our Temple Beth El Chanukah Party!



**Sunday, December 17th
beginning at 1 pm**

With special guests

Ezekiel's Wheel Klezmer Band



who will be performing from 2 to 3 pm, followed by Community Candlelighting. Bring your children and grandchildren, bring a friend or two! There is no charge for this event, but we must have your reservations by December 10th.



Ezekiel's Wheel Klezmer Band

A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Shoshana Brown

Let Your Light Shine!

Here we are in December/Kislev, month of the longest nights, the month when we, together with our Christian neighbors, celebrate holidays of light – lights which remind us that yes, the longer days will return. And even though the newspapers are full of dark and tragic events, our holidays of light reaffirm for us that hope is always available as long as there are courageous and loving individuals who do the work of compassion, who fight for justice and peace between peoples, and who speak up for the sake of God's creation on this amazing planet. And yes, our unique holiday of light, Chanukah, also serves to remind us never to give up on the Jewish people: how many times have the odds of our survival looked dire, even unlikely? During biblical times, things looked bleak indeed for our patriarch Jacob's family. Little did they know that their survival was resting on their long-lost Joseph, wasting away in a prison in Egypt. The Torah states that Joseph had been thrown into a *bor*, a dungeon, a place without light – and yet, he was able to see what others could not see: what was coming, and how to preserve life.

How many times has it seemed that there was little or no future for the Jewish people? In Egypt, during the Crusades, the Inquisition, during the pogroms in Russia, and certainly during the Holocaust it may have looked to many as though this small people had no chance of ever flourishing again. And even after the seemingly-miraculous establishment of the modern State of Israel, there were times when it seemed the new state's survival hung by a thread. So although each new generation faces a new set of problems, a new historical situation, perhaps we should have learned by now that we should never give up hope, as long as somewhere a small flame still flickers.

As we can all see, the numbers of Jews in our own area are not what they once were. Mark and I have been told many times of the days when the Hebrew school was bursting at the seams with up to 600 children, with Fall River itself having multiple synagogues. There are many reasons that these children, as they grew up and went off to college, did not return to our area, and if the statistics on the American Jewish population are to be believed, a good percentage of them have now raised children who no longer affiliate as "Jewish," or who, even if they identify as Jewish, do not belong to any congregation. What will become of the American Jewish population (outside of Orthodoxy, which seems to be ever-growing)? And what can we do about this today at Temple Beth El in Fall River?

Instead of wringing our hands and predicting the worst, we might take pride in the fact that, out of a community that once had up to seven synagogues, we are still standing and offering a full complement of Shabbat and holidays services,

along with two weekday morning services. We offer an impressive roster of adult ed opportunities, a monthly gathering for viewing Jewish films, a Jewish "outing club" (taking outings in nature, and recently to the Yiddish Book Center), a book club, sisterhood, and a supportive community to families during times of crisis or loss. Beyond the traditional Jewish holidays, our community has also come to love our more creative services, such as our Tu BiShevat Seder, our Yom HaShoah commemoration, and our "Celebrate Israel" Shabbat. (And how will we top the last two years' Purimshpiels?!) Often our offerings, such as the gathering for Tisha B'Av, and for the pre-Rosh HaShanah *selichot* prayers, are held in Rabbi Mark's and my home, which features a more intimate atmosphere than even our *heimisch* chapel in the temple.

Last month our president Steve Silverman wrote eloquently of the need for as many of our members as possible to introduce a new person to Temple Beth El. If each member could do that, it would be wonderful. We have recently gained new members from outside the immediate Fall River area who appreciate how warm, genuine, and truly spiritual the atmosphere around our temple is. Additionally, we have a small number of non-Jews who attend our services and other offerings because they feel welcome here, and because they perceive that we have something to offer that they have not been able to find in area churches (how many synagogues can say that?). We may not be large in numbers, but our flame burns brightly!

When the Second Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE, many assumed that would be the end of Judaism. How could they worship God without access to their holiest place, without the priestly offerings and the songs of the Levites? But a small group of rabbis managed to establish an academy for study and for training a future generation in Yavneh, where they began to re-focus Jewish religious life around the home and the personal devotion of individual, ordinary Jews. Thanks to these rabbis, Judaism was both transformed and saved.

Once again, Judaism is in a state of flux; much is changing, and it is not yet clear which responses to this change will be the ones to ensure a vibrant Judaism for the coming generation. What can *you* do? We would love to have more of our members join us more often (be sure not to miss our Chanukah celebration with our special musical guests!); to have you get more actively involved in our community. TBE is a special place, and we can all play a vital part in keeping our flame alive until a younger generation of Jews discovers that this area is a wonderful one to settle in and raise families. So let's all be as involved as we can be – taking part in our varied offerings, enriching our lives Jewishly – and thereby keep our flame burning brightly so that the next generation may see that light, and find their way home.

Wishing you all a joyous, light-filled Chanukah,

Cantor Shoshana

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since last month's bulletin came out I have had so much positive feedback about the need to find new members to keep our congregation viable. I truly appreciate everyone's efforts to try to contact new people. It really can be as simple as inviting them to come to a service or event. Our Chanukah party is December 17th, and we have decided to provide the food and entertainment for no charge. It seems to me to be a perfect opportunity to introduce someone to our congregation, so bring a friend or two!

Along those same lines we must be very aware of new people in our midst. We often receive thanks and compliments from people who stop in for a service, saying how welcoming our people are. It is easy to spot and make a point of speaking to new people at a small gathering, especially in the chapel, but we also must remember to welcome people we don't recognize in larger settings, as well, such as the Chanukah party and the high holiday services. Making people feel welcome will make all the difference to someone who is considering joining a synagogue, because that is where they will feel most comfortable. That is how we all feel! Hopefully we will have a number of new people in our midst this year, so please keep an eye out and take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome them.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Ruderman Shabbaton weekend. From Friday through Sunday we hosted a series of enjoyable and uplifting events. Thanks to Cantor Shoshana, Rabbi Mark and Hannah Evans for all of their coordinating, thanks to Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus for being our special guest and to Linda Myer for thoroughly entertaining us with her portrayal of Sophie Tucker. Also thanks to Anita and Norm Bolski and Libby Cohen and Sisterhood for once again taking care of the food, to George Haire for all of the set-up and break down in the vestry, and special thanks to the Ruderman family for once again sponsoring the entire weekend.

Steve Silverman
President

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Sisterhood President's Message

The month of December is upon us, and that means winter is just around the corner. We all know what that means - colder temperatures and the possibility of snow and ice. The days are shorter and the nights longer. I must say I am already looking forward to spring.

I hope everyone has circled Sunday, December 17th on their calendar. That is the day we will be celebrating Chanukah with our annual party. It begins with lunch at 1pm, followed by Klezmer musical entertainment. Lastly, we join our clergy, Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana, in a community lighting of the menorah. This should prove to be an afternoon of socializing and camaraderie. Please call the office and make your reservations. There is no charge for this event.

Monday afternoon Mah Jongg has been suspended starting December 4th, and will begin again on April 9th. People take that time to vacation and winter in warm climates. Enjoy yourselves, we'll see you in the spring.

The Sisterhood dues bills have recently gone out. Your prompt remittance will be greatly appreciated.

So until next month, keep warm.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President

IN MEMORIAM

BERNARD HOFFMAN
OCTOBER 29, 2017 - 9 CHESHVAN 5778

MAY HIS MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

Mah Jongg Winter Break

In anticipation of our New England winter and all that comes with the cold, icy weather, we have decided to take a break from our Monday mah jongg games from December through March. We plan to start back up again on April 9th.

Temple Family

- A warm welcome to new members Chris & Jim Pereira
- Our deepest condolences to the family of Bernard Hoffman
- Our deepest condolences to Peter Kane on the loss of his beloved daughter, Elizabeth Jean.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

**December 2017:
Kislev/Tevet 5778**Friday, December 1 (13 Kislev)

Candle Lighting	3:57 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, December 2 (14 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayishlach	10:00 am
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Friday, December 8 (20 Kislev)

Candle Lighting	3:56 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, December 9 (21 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayeshev	10:00 am
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Tuesday, December 12 (24 Kislev)

Erev Chanukah – Light first Chanukah candle

Wednesday, December 13 (25 Kislev)

Chanukah – First Day
Light second Chanukah candle

Thursday, December 14 (26 Kislev)

Chanukah – Second Day
Light third Chanukah candle

Friday, December 15 (27 Kislev)

Candle Lighting	3:57 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Chanukah – Third Day
Light fourth candle before Shabbat candles

Saturday, December 16 (28 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Miketz	10:00 am
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Chanukah – Fourth Day
Light fifth Chanukah candle after 5:03 pm

Sunday, December 17 (29 Kislev)

Chanukah – Fifth Day
Light sixth Chanukah candle

Monday, December 18 (30 Kislev)

Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Chanukah – Sixth Day
Light seventh Chanukah candle

Tuesday, December 19 (1 Tevet)

Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Chanukah – Seventh Day
Light eighth Chanukah candle

Wednesday, December 20 (2 Tevet)

Chanukah – Eighth Day

Friday, December 22 (4 Tevet)

Candle Lighting	4:00 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

SERVICE SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Saturday, December 23 (5 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayigash	10:00 am
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Friday, December 29 (11 Tevet)

Candle Lighting	4:04 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, December 30 (12 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayekhi	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:

Monday, December 25th – School Closed

Off the Shelf

Greetings to all and a Happy Chanukah as well! I have been pleased to see that there has been a steady borrowing from the library (thanks Carol!). I have also been culling books from the shelves and the ascension records to thin out the many extraneous copies of things that we have or are so dated that they have not been touched in over 50 years! I am concentrating mainly in the former boardroom because we no longer use it and it will give the Adas Israel congregation a bit more space should they need it. At least they may not feel as crowded in there if the room appears a bit lighter.

I will be away from the library for a couple of months due to foot surgery, but when I return I will have a few new books to add to our shelves. In the meantime the library should still be accessible, especially when the Rabbi and Cantor have their Adult Ed class on Mondays or at any other time there are activities going on at the temple. Just remember to take the card out of the back of the book, sign and date it and then place it in the file box on the desk. When you return the book simply reverse the order. And just a reminder to please NOT read with dirty fingers. I think we all would appreciate having clean books to read. Thanks!

Robin Fielding

*Chanukah begins
Tuesday evening, December 12th.*

TBE News & Notes

Todah Rabbah to all who helped make the 2017 **Ruderman Shabbaton Weekend** a warm and lively coming together of our TBE community, the weekend's events touching on history, spirituality, theology, humor, and the enjoyment of Jewish music! (And thanks to Norman and Anita Bolski we also enjoyed our Sunday brunch of lox and bagels together.) We felt truly enriched by Rabbi Alvin's presence amongst us for the Shabbaton, and we laughed and cried with Cantorial Soloist Linda in her role as Sophie Tucker. If you were not able to join us this year, please make an effort to be with us for the Ruderman Weekend 2018!

All who joined us for the **TBE Outing Club visit to the Yiddish Book Center** in Amherst, MA had a wonderful time! We enjoyed a gorgeous fall day, the western- MA countryside, and a fascinating tour of the Yiddish Book Center, including a visit with founder Aaron Lansky (whose roots are in this area), and one of the center's fellows, Eitan Kensky, whom Cantor Shoshana had once been the babysitter for in Jerusalem when he was 3 years old!

"Caffeine and Conversations," our Fall River Interfaith discussion series, continues on Tuesday Dec. 5th, at the downstairs meeting room of the Fall River Public Library, from 2 to 3:00. This month's discussion leader is Cheryl Crossley Simmons, whose topic is "American History: An Introduction to Some Notable Black Americans."

Please make sure to reserve your space for this year's TBE Chanukah celebration with special musical guests, **Ezekiel's Wheel Klezmer Band**, on Sunday, Dec. 17th. I recently had the pleasure of hearing this band live in Somerville, and they were both exceptional musicians and engaging personally – I really look forward to our hosting them right here at Temple Beth El!

Once again, I want to remind you about the United Neighbors of Fall River **winter coat drive**. If you have lightly-used warm winter coats to donate, please contact Wendy Garf-Lipp at the UNFR office to arrange a drop-off: 508-324-7900, or Wendy@unfr.org.

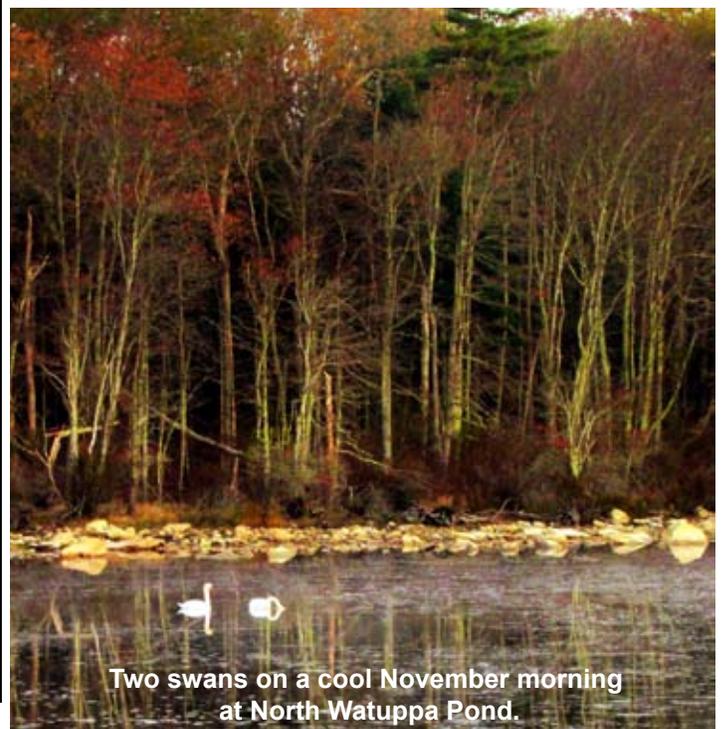
Our Adult Ed class will have a special guest lecturer, **Fr. Martin Buote**, on Monday, May 11th. He will speak about Judaism and the beginnings of Christianity in the 1st century. All are welcome!

Finally, please note that our Monday Adult Education class will not meet on Monday December 25th or January 1st.



Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Alfred Uhry, "Driving Miss Daisy" affectionately covers the 25-year relationship between a wealthy, strong-willed Southern matron (Jessica Tandy) and her equally indomitable Black chauffeur, Hoke (Morgan Freeman). Both employer and employee are outsiders, Hoke because of the color of his skin, Miss Daisy because she is Jewish in a WASP-dominated society. At the same time, Hoke cannot fathom Miss Daisy's cloistered inability to grasp the social changes that are sweeping the South in the 1960s. Nor can Miss Daisy understand why Hoke's "people" are so indignant. It is only when Hoke is retired and Miss Daisy is confined to a home for the elderly that the two fully realize that they've been friends and kindred spirits all along. The supporting cast includes Esther Rolle as Miss Daisy's housekeeper and Dan Aykroyd as Miss Daisy's son, Boolie (reportedly, playwright Uhry based the character upon himself). Driving Miss Daisy won Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Screenplay, and Best Makeup, 1989.

Come join us on Sunday, Dec. 10th at 2 PM!



Two swans on a cool November morning at North Watuppa Pond.

Thank you for your donations received through November 21, 2017

Yahrzeits

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

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Mother, Helene Bender | Susan Bender |
| Mother, Bessie Bolski | Norm Bolski |
| Grandfather, Jacob Brown | Howard Galitsky |
| Husband, Norman Cohen | Fran Cohen |
| Father, Philip Dondis | Nathan Dondis |
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| Mother, Lenora Goltz | Barbara & Arthur Sheer |
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| Father, David Somer | Blanche & Norman Somer |
| Father, Don Wiener | Sharon Waxenbaum |
| Mother, Anna H. Zalkind | Barbara Eisen |

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

- For the yearzeit of my beloved grandfather, **Bennett Alpert**
- For the yearzeit of my beloved grandmother, **Libbie Alpert**
- For the yearzeit of my beloved grandson, **Alex Pankiw**
Sumner Alpert

CAPITAL FUND

- In honor of Bill Chebot celebrating a special birthday**
Ken, Susan & Jackson Littman
- In memory of Bernard Hoffman**
Susan Bender
- In memory of Joe Rosenfeld**
Sheila Lash
Marcia Smith

IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- In honor of Bill Chebot celebrating a special birthday**
- In memory of Bernard Hoffman**
- In memory of Joe Rosenfeld**
- For the recovery of Carol Schwartz**
Ann & Bob Chavenson

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RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- In honor of Rabbi Elber**
Ellen & Terry Shand
- In memory of Joe Rosenfeld**
Hannah Evans

SPECIAL GIFTS

- In memory of beloved wife and mother, Joy L. Field**
Victor Field and Rachel Baker
- In memory of beloved father, Max Gold**
Micki Gold

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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

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Book Club News

At our November meeting we chose our selections for the winter months. What better way to pass a long winter's day?

- Dec. 20: "Before We Were Yours: A Novel" by Lisa Wingate
- Jan. 17: "The Little Paris Book Shop" by Nina George
- Feb. 21: "Morningstar: Growing Up With Books" by Ann Hood

Also, the movie based on our November book, "A Man Called Ove" is currently available on Amazon Video (free for Prime members). If you can see it, DO SO. We loved the book, and the movie is the cherry on top.



Cantorial Soloist Linda Myer performing as Sophie Tucker on Ruderman Weekend.

High Holy Days Flower Fund

Martin & Suzanne Finkel, in honor of Temple Beth El and Sisterhood
Harvey & Elaine Reback, in memory of Elizabeth Jean Kane.

The TBE Outing Club visited the Yiddish Book Center in November, and enjoyed speaking with New Bedford native Aaron Lansky, the center's founder and director.



(From left: Harvey and Elaine Reback; Norm and Anita Bolski; Carole Cooper; Aaron Lansky; Cantor Shoshana; Anne Griffin)

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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

YAHARZEITS

12/1/2017 13 Kislev 5778
David Cohen

12/2/2017 14 Kislev 5778
Hattie Caplain

12/4/2017 16 Kislev 5778
Gary Reitzas

12/5/2017 17 Kislev 5778
Sylvia T. Reback

12/6/2017 18 Kislev 5778
Max Reiser

12/8/2017 20 Kislev 5778
Bess Levin

12/9/2017 21 Kislev 5778
Harry Berger
Edith Gold

12/10/2017 22 Kislev 5778
Hummy Chebot
Barry Novek

12/11/2017 23 Kislev 5778
Alice Helfanbein
Hyman Schwartz
Elizabeth Beryl Waksler
Donna Ann Wolfson

12/14/2017 26 Kislev 5778
Henry William Juda
Phyllis Nerenberg
Samuel Rotenberg
Julius Simpson

12/15/2017 27 Kislev 5778
Shirley Resnick

12/16/2017 28 Kislev 5778
David Kotlen
Dr. Henry Lustig
Bernard Miller

12/17/2017 29 Kislev 5778
Ada Haims
Robert Lipson

12/18/2017 30 Kislev 5778
Abraham D. Becker

12/19/2017 1 Tevet 5778
Sanford Litchman
Alfred Pistreich
Rose Tallman

12/20/2017 2 Tevet 5778
Sarah R. Katzman

12/21/2017 3 Tevet 5778
William Gittelman
Milton Elis Raffel

12/22/2017 4 Tevet 5778
Isaac Schwartz
Jacob Yamins

12/25/2017 7 Tevet 5778
Frances Fradkin
Dr. Myron Rubinstein
Pauline Rudolph
Selma Sokoll

12/26/2017 8 Tevet 5778
Stanley Alpert
Howard Krasnow
Leon Nathan Malin

12/28/2017 10 Tevet 5778
Arthur Granovsky
Mathilda H. Raffel
Aaron Solotist

12/29/2017 11 Tevet 5778
Arline Alpert
Frederick Belford
Robert Sokoll

12/30/2017 12 Tevet 5778
Sylvia Schneider

12/31/2017 13 Tevet 5778
Paula E. Shuman
Maurice Sludsky

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