

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



92nd Year

December 2019

Kislev/Tevet 5780

No. 4

Regular Service Schedule

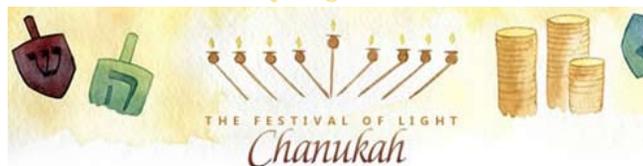
Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am
 Friday Evening Services5:30 pm
 Shabbat Morning Services.....10:00 am



An Afternoon with Morton Dean
November 3, 2019



Our annual Chanukah party will be on December 29th



2 pm
 No charge
 Please RSVP
 by Dec. 20th!

A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Shoshana Brown

“Shedding Light” on the Past Year

As Jews, we live with concurrently running calendars – the secular one, which we share with all the world, and the Jewish one, uniquely ours. As American Jews, we are engaged with two areas of national concern: for the United States, of which we are citizens, and for the worldwide “nation” of the Jewish people (which includes Israel, but extends to concern for Jews worldwide). The secular calendar comes to a close (in our hemisphere) just after winter solstice, when our days have reached their period of greatest darkness, and as we open the new year on January 1st, we can already see that the daylight is lasting just a tiny bit longer.

By the winter solstice (December 21st), our Jewish year has been well underway, so we do not have the same sense of “looking back” at the previous Jewish year as we do when approaching Rosh HaShanah. But we do celebrate the turning of the celestial year from darkness to increasing light as we celebrate Chanukah, increasing the number of candles each night (this year the 1st night of Chanukah coming only one day after the solstice)

Chanukah, however, is not just about the solstice or the natural world. It marks the struggle and victory of the Maccabees, and of those who supported them, to retain their identity as Jews, and to regain their national sovereignty. There is a poignancy in celebrating Chanukah anywhere in the Diaspora, since although in our era the Jewish people have once again regained national sovereignty, nevertheless, those of us outside of Israel continue to live as minorities in non-Jewish regimes. In the United States, however, most of us are happy to live in a pluralistic nation which has no official religious or ethnic identity: the U.S belongs not to one particular group of people, but to all those who embrace our nation’s founding ideals, which include a belief in the inherent equality of all human beings, and in the right of each citizen to lawfully pursue “life, liberty, and happiness.”

As I look back on the year 2019, I see a nexus of two issues: that of the inherent equality of all people before God promulgated by both Jewish teaching and the Declaration of Independence; and that of the friction between those Americans who prioritize this belief and those who don’t.

Although Jews have become widely accepted as part of the U.S. population across the political spectrum, nevertheless, the past year (and the one before it as well) evidenced a significant rise in anti-Semitic incidents. One of these, of course, hit close to home last March when one of our Fall River cemeteries was vandalized. Recently, a Jewish cemetery in Omaha, Nebraska was similarly visited by vandals who toppled and defaced up to 75 headstones. In May of 2019, fires were set outside two Chabad houses in the Boston area on the same night. And it was just last April that a gunman attempted to kill a Chabad rabbi in Poway, California – a rabbi whose life was saved by a brave female congregant who threw herself in the way between the gunman and the rabbi. So while the Jewish vote may be courted by politicians on both the right and the left, we American Jews continue to be reminded: there are folks who don’t want us here.

Because this message never seems to go away entirely, the sympathy of our people for other peoples who are similarly vulnerable tends to be strong amongst us. We hold dearly to the American values of racial equality and freedom of religion. At the same time, we strongly support Israel, knowing that however secure we may feel in the U.S., there is always the chance that someday we or our descendants may need a place of refuge. And yet, because we hold so precious these values of equality and of the rights of all people to pursue happiness, we American Jews tend to care deeply about the health of democracy and human rights in Israel – not just for Jews, but for all its population.

Thus, as we approach both the winter solstice and our Jewish festival of lights, I thought it would be “enlightening” to review the following stirring words from Israel’s declaration of independence:

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Wishing you all a joyful Chanukah, and a healthy, happy secular New Year,

Cantor Shoshana

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a November we had here at Temple Beth El! It started with our afternoon with Morton Dean, who was delighted to reconnect with some old friends here in Fall River, followed by the showing of his fascinating documentary, "American Medevac." It was great to see so many people in the vestry for such a special event. Thank you to all who helped make this event a success, from the snacks to the table settings to the audio/visual equipment to sending out invitations to local veterans groups.

Following that was our annual Rabbi Samuel and Tillie Ruderman Shabbaton Weekend. Our special guest/scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Ron Koas, was very interesting, and on Sunday we had a special brunch & movie dedicated to our veterans. As a veteran myself, I would like to thank everyone who helped make this Veteran's day (and month) so special. Thanks also to the Ruderman family for their support of our annual lecture and weekend.

I'm afraid I also have some sad news. Jeremy Poster, who last year became the manager of Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, tragically passed away on November 18th at just 37 years of age. In just over a year he had become an integral part of the local Jewish community. He was one of the people who helped organize the vigil at the Hebrew cemetery, and he oversaw the funerals of several of our members. He was excited to be returning to Las Vegas in early December to take on a new position with Dignity Memorial. Live every day...life is unpredictable. May his memory be for a blessing.

See you at the Chanukah party on Decmeber 29th at 2 pm!

*Steve Silverman
President*

*Sisterhood President's Message*

Well it's time to say goodbye to November, and hello to December. The days are definitely shorter, and quite a bit colder. But we shall persevere and look forward to spring. Many of us will take a trip south to break it all up.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This happens to be my favorite holiday. Families and friends get together to eat, socialize and reminisce about old times. I just love it.

The November Temple activities were a great success. The Sunday afternoon with Morton Dean was the best. The movie was absolutely wonderful. I'm glad I got to see it. The Ruderman Weekend went off without a hitch. There was something for everyone's taste. Sunday we honored our Veterans, from a lovely brunch to another great movie. I must thank everyone that helped to make these events possible. That would be Sylvia Eisner, Anita and Norm Bolski, Elaine and Harvey Reback, Hannah Evans, Beverly Solup, Steve Silverman, Rabbi Mark Elber, Cantor Shoshana Brown, Marie Twomey, Judy Morgenstern and George Haire. Thank you big time!

Chanukah is right around the corner. We are busy planning our annual party, as I write. The date is Sunday, December 29th at 2 pm, so mark your calendar and keep a close watch for more information.

So until next month, keep warm and stay 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 as well as at the Chanukah party. If that is not convenient, please contact me to arrange another morning.

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

SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 2019: Kislev/Tevet 5780Friday, December 6 (8 Kislev)

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

Saturday, December 7 (9 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayetzei	10:00 am
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Friday, December 13 (15 Kislev)

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

Saturday, December 14 (16 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: - Vayishlakh	10:00 am
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Friday, December 20 (22 Kislev)

Candle Lighting	3:59 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, December 21 (23 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayeshev	10:00 am
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Sunday, December 22 (24 Kislev)

Erev Chanukah
Light first Chanukah candle

Monday, December 23 (25 Kislev)

Chanukah – First day
Light second Chanukah candle

Tuesday, December 24 (26 Kislev)

Chanukah – Second day
Light third Chanukah candle

Wednesday, December 25 (27 Kislev)

Chanukah – Third day
Light fourth Chanukah candle

Thursday, December 26 (28 Kislev)

Chanukah – Fourth day
Light fifth Chanukah candle

Friday, December 27 (29 Kislev)

Chanukah – Fifth day	
Light 6th Chanukah candle before Shabbat candles	
Candle Lighting	4:03 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, December 28 (30 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Miketz	10:00 am
Rosh Chodesh Tevet	
Chanukah – Sixth Day	
Light seventh Chanukah candle after 5:09 pm	

Sunday, December 29 (1 Tevet)

Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Chanukah – Seventh day
Light eighth Chanukah candle

Monday, December 30 (2 Tevet)

Chanukah – Eighth day

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:

Wednesday, December 25th, School Closed

NOTE OF THANKS!

Thank you all for the many notes, cards, emails, phone calls, ride offers and even a box of custom-printed golf balls (see below) while I recuperated from my knee replacement surgery. Each and every one brightened my day! As I work on this bulletin I have my knee elevated, I am icing it down with my "cold therapy" machine and I am midway through my physical therapy. I am happy to report that everything is looking good for a complete recovery!



I can't wait to get back on the tennis courts and the golf course, but for now I must exercise patience...the hardest part for me! I also have to thank Judy, without whom I couldn't have done this, and to everyone else who pitched in to help things run smoothly in my absence. I feel blessed to work with all of you, and I will be back at my desk very soon!

-Marie



Winterberries at Allens Pond Audubon Sanctuary on the Westport/Dartmouth line.

TBE News & Notes

Well, I hope many of you were able to participate in the very interesting events that took place at TBE during November. The lecture and showing of **Morton Dean's** documentary "**American Medevac**" was extremely well-attended and appreciated, and gave us an especially deep appreciation for the service of our veterans and armed services members as we headed towards Veterans' Day.

The following weekend brought our guest scholar-in-residence, **Rabbi Ron Koas** to share with us both his personal story and his reflections on the future of Judaism both here and in Israel over the Shabbat portion of the **Ruderman Shabbaton-Weekend**. All who attended found Rabbi Koas' story fascinating and thought-provoking.

The Sunday portion of the Ruderman Weekend featured our **tribute to our Veterans** and current service members, brunch, and an intensely moving documentary, "**G.I Jews.**" This was such a lovely event, and once again, I want to **thank all the members of our Events Committee** for their coordinated efforts to make the entire weekend enjoyable, meaningful, and memorable.

Please mark your calendars for our **TBE Chanukah party** (Sunday, December 29th at 2 PM) – and **don't forget to RSVP** so that those who work so tirelessly to make our events possible know whether you are coming or not!



SUNDAY AT THE JEWISH MOVIES

"CUPCAKES"

CUPCAKES (Israeli Comedy/Musical) Directed by Eytan Fox. Set in contemporary Tel Aviv, six diverse best friends gather to watch the wildly popular UniverSong competition. Appalled by the Israeli entry, they decide to create their own and record it on a mobile phone. Unbeknownst to them, their performance is seen by the UniverSong judges and selected as Israel's entry for next year's competition.

One reviewer wrote of this 2015 comedy: "...a gossamer-light musical comedy with gorgeous production design, a great pop score and, best of all, a group of actors who get to have fun on screen, singing and dancing together." 90 minutes.

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

IN MEMORIAM

MARILYN EHRENHAUS
NOV. 11, 2019 – 13 CHESHVAN 5779
MAY HER MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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Victoria Benevides
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e-mail: vbenevides@frjhc.org
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Thank you for your donations received through November 26, 2019

Yahrzeits

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...	Donated by:
Mother, Ida Appel	Gloria Baskin
Mother, Doris Becker	Ethel Winokoor
Mother, Helene Bender	Susan Bender
Mother, Bessie Bolski	Milton Bolski
Grandfather, Jacob Brown	Howard Galitsky
Mother, Lenora Goltz	Barbara Sheer
Mother, Anne Gregory	Jonathan Gregory
Father, Paul Horowitz	Atty. Jay Horowitz
Mother, Bessie Kassler	Hannah Evans
Husband, Seymour Kevelson	Carol Kevelson
Mother, Tobie Lechan	Norma Jean Lechan
Mother, Phyllis Littman	Ken Littman & family
Mother, Sara Malin	Rochelle Tobin
Grandmother, Jennie Robinson	Edith K. Getchell
Grandmother, Jennie Robinson	Enid K. Getchell
Mother, Betty Rosenberg	Richard Rosenberg
Mother, Lillian Schwartz	Steven Feinberg
Mother, Yetta Sludsky	Paula Sultan
Father, David Somer	The Somer Family
Parents, James & Dorothy Uditsky	Esta Uditsky Jacobs
Mother, Anna Zalkind	Barbara Eisen

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Billy Chebot	Ethel & Sid Winokoor
In memory of Irving Bieler	Rick Schwartz
In memory of Bernice & Carlton Dubitsky, Louise Polin, Betty Rosenthal	Peter & Marcy Kane
In memory of Marilyn Ehrenhaus	Sayre Litchman Rick Schwartz
In memory of long time friend, Betty Williams	Ethel & Sid Winokoor
For the recovery of Iris Katzman	Ethel & Sid Winokoor
For the recovery of Charles Dress	
For the recovery of Ken Littman	Anita & Norm Bolski
For the recovery of Marie Twomey	Irma & Carl Feldman Paula Shaer Beverly Sokoll

IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of James Botelho
Chavenson Family

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Elber
Renee Lipson

WISH LIST - HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOKS

In memory of parents, Harry & Sheila Holtzman
Michael, Charron & Ben Holtzman

In memory of our beloved parents
Jeffrey & Leonora Horowitz

In memory of father, Maury Kusinitz, mother, Edith R. Kusinitz and brother, Stewart R. Kusinitz
Enid K. Lomax & Edith K. Getchell

In memory of Phyllis & Arthur Littman
Ken Littman & family

In memory of Irving Bieler
For the recovery of Marie Twomey
Bill Chebot

The **NEW** Sisterhood Book Club

"Reading is the sole meaning by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly into another's skin, another's soul."
Joyce Carol Oates

Come try us out!

Our Sisterhood offers a range of activities .. from study, to prayer, to playing mahjong, to helping plan an upcoming event, to sharing in the experience of reading a good book. Come try us out!

Our selections range from comedy to tragedy, fictional to historic, educational to discovery.

Come try us out! The requirements are easy.

1. Be a Sisterhood member
2. Read the book.
3. Come share your thoughts.

"We read to know we are not alone." William Nicholson.

We meet once a month on the third Wednesday, from 10:30 to noon in the temple Library.

The selection for December 18 is:

The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides

The January selection is: Educated by Tara Westover

Come try us out!

The November selection, The Alice Network, by Kate Quinn is a good read and enthusiastically recommended.



Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.

385 High Street, Fall River, MA 02720
 Tel: (508) 673-7791 Fax: (508) 678-6735
 e-mail: fruja@comcast.net

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.

Temple Family

- Welcome to new members, Marcie & Frank MacKinnon (Marcie is Meryl Novek’s sister)!
- Our condolences to Abraham Ehrenhaus on the passing of his beloved wife, Marilyn and to Burton Gerstenzang on the passing of his beloved sister, Pearl Markell



Colors at Herb Hadfield Conservation Area, part of the Westport Land Conservation Trust



We love seeing so many of you at our events, but we need your help...not cooking, not cleaning, just an RSVP when it is requested. Those who are purchasing and preparing the food play a guessing game as to how much to buy and prepare. Sometimes we prepare for 40 and 15 come; sometimes we prepare for 40 and 60 come. We don't want to waste food nor money, and we don't want to refuse congregants if they have not RSVP'd, but **please, please, please RSVP by the date requested for all events where food will be served.** It really makes a big difference. If you arrive for the event without an RSVP you may be put on the committee for the next event, which will make you more appreciative of how much an RSVP matters!

A reminder email is sent out before all events, with a reminder to RSVP by the date requested. If you are coming, simply reply to the email. You can also call the office. You can reply via passenger pigeon. Any method will do!

The Chanukah party this year will be Sunday, December 29th at 2 pm. There is no charge for the event, but RSVP's by December 20th are required. Thank you in advance for taking a moment to RSVP!

SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

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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

YAHARZEITS

12/2/2019 4 Kislev 5780

Anne Gregory
Paul Horowitz
Louis Weinstock
Donald Wiener
Myron Wilner
Lillian Woltman

12/3/2019 5 Kislev 5780

Bennett Alpert
Neilson Caplain
Gladys Shapiro

12/4/2019 6 Kislev 5780

Ida Z. David
Myer Goldman

12/5/2019 7 Kislev 5780

Ida Appel
Francis F. Levin
Lena Reback

12/6/2019 8 Kislev 5780

Dr. Barry Steinberg

12/7/2019 9 Kislev 5780

Tillie Ruderman

12/8/2019 10 Kislev 5780

Edward Adaskin
Julius Grozen
Eric Lawson
David Nadien

12/10/2019 12 Kislev 5780

Sadie Katersky

12/11/2019 13 Kislev 5780

David Cohen

12/12/2019 14 Kislev 5780

Hattie Caplain

12/14/2019 16 Kislev 5780

Gary Reitzas

12/15/2019 17 Kislev 5780

Sylvia T. Reback

12/19/2019 21 Kislev 5780

Harry Berger
Edith Gold

12/20/2019 22 Kislev 5780

Hummy Chebot
Barry Novek

12/21/2019 23 Kislev 5780

Alice Helfanbein
Elizabeth Beryl Waksler
Donna Ann Wolfson

12/24/2019 26 Kislev 5780

Henry William Juda
Phyllis Nerenberg
Samuel Rotenberg
Julius Simpson

12/25/2019 27 Kislev 5780

Shirley Resnick

12/26/2019 28 Kislev 5780

David Kotlen
Dr. Henry Lustig
Bernard Miller

12/27/2019 29 Kislev 5780

Ada Haims
Robert Lipson

12/28/2019 30 Kislev 5780

Abraham D. Becker

12/29/2019 1 Tevet 5780

Sanford Litchman
Rose Tallman

12/31/2019 3 Tevet 5780

William Gittelman
Milton Elis Raffel



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(a community hospice agency)

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