

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



95th Year

December 2022

Kislev/Tevet 5783

No. 4

## Regular Service Schedule - In Person and Via Zoom

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

## COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

On Sunday, December 25th, at 3 pm, Rabbi Mark will be presenting a reading from his new, award-winning first book of poetry, “Headstone.” This event – which is open to all (according to our standard Covid-policy practices; with those who are not fully-vaccinated requested to mask) - will take place in our TBE chapel, and will be followed by a book signing. The reading will also be available on Zoom.



Immediately following the reading/signing event (at approximately 4 pm), there will be a Chanukah celebration (with a light dairy dinner) at the Rabbi’s and Cantor’s home. Due to the small, intimate space of their home (and the recent resurgence of the virus), we ask that only those who are fully-vaccinated, and not feeling any symptoms of illness, attend this event. Also, it is imperative that those who are planning to attend the party RSVP to the TBE office by phone or by email by December 16th.

We expect to light candles (it will be the last night of Chanukah) around 5 pm; so please be aware that it will be dark when you leave.

No RSVP is needed for the reading at the temple; please do bring a friend (they don’t have to be Jewish!)



## SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Sunday, December 18th at 2 pm

“RESISTANCE”

for more information, see page 5

## A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

As we head into December, the celebration of Chanukah, and the shortest and darkest days of the year, many thoughts vie for attention in my head: the darkness in our nation as we witness more acts of gun violence against young people just at the beginning of their adult lives; the atrocities being committed against innocent civilians in Ukraine, in Myanmar, and in Iran; North Korea stepping up its nuclear missile-testing; the continuing rise of anti-semitism here in the United States. And yes, there are points of light that break through as well: the apparent desire of our nation overall to reject political extremism, to find some way that we can be more *balanced*, a way for all of us to be able to *talk* to one another again, a way for us to have trust in our democracy again – these are good things!

On November 17, I attended a panel discussion at Providence College, part of an ongoing series of dialogues on Jewish/Catholic relations: this was the first in-person event of this nature that I can remember attending for quite some time! The main topic for this night was the resurgence of antisemitism in America, and the “star” speaker (at least in my mind) was Rabbi Ron Fish, a Conservative rabbi from Sharon who is the director of “Advocacy and Education” on antisemitism for the New England Region Anti-Defamation League.

Rabbi Fish began with talking about recent events, especially the very harmful tweets of Kanye West/Ye and of his friend Kyrie Irving – both of whom are clearly disturbed individuals, but who, nonetheless have social media reach to millions of people. Also discussed were some recent incidents in Rhode Island where people’s yards were littered with antisemitic fliers, and where swastikas were spray-painted in public places. Thus far, thank goodness, no people have been physically hurt in these recent incidents. But what stuck with me after I left Rabbi Fish’s talk was his use of the phrase “the canary in the coal mine.”

Historically, for some reason, hatred and slander against the Jewish people have been time and again the “low-hanging fruit” which seems to signal the rise of attacks against a number of vulnerable groups who do not fit in with the mainstream. What Rabbi Fish said resonated for me, as just the day before, on November 16, I had attended a Zoom meeting organized by United Neighbors of Fall River on the subject of how to better support the LGBTQ community, where we were encouraged to attend a “Transgender Day of Remembrance” at Fall River’s Heritage Park on Nov. 20. This day was set aside to memorialize the more than 43 transgender and gender

non-conforming individuals murdered in the United States in 2021 (nine more than in 2020).

Now I know that many of us who are 60 or older may be confused by all these “letters” (what do they mean?), and by what seems like the sudden mushrooming of the phenomenon of people who are declaring that they do not fit into the roles of traditional heterosexual men or women; some of us are bewildered. But when we think about how *Jews* have been perceived in a similar way over the ages (“Why do they persist being Jews? Why don’t they just accept Jesus and become Christians?”), we should pause to realize that a society that does not allow minority groups (or even majority groups – like *women!*) to define for themselves who they are, or what they can become, is a troubled society. Thus it is important for us as Jews to not only take steps to protect our own community, but to learn how to be allies for other groups that face persecution. If we want others to speak up for *us*, we too have to speak up for *others*.

The Maccabees of the Chanukah story symbolize many different things to different people: warriors, nationalists, brave non-conformists, zealots; it was because of the warrior/nationalist/zealotry aspect of this movement that the Rabbis of the Talmud turned the holiday of Chanukah into a holiday to celebrate the miracle of the oil, rather than one celebrating a military victory. They did not want to celebrate war and killing (even the killing of our enemies!), but to emphasize instead light, hope, and God’s providence.

And still today, we try to hold these two thoughts in mind: that while we must stay vigilant about the very real threats that exist in our world against ourselves and other vulnerable groups, nevertheless, we must at the same time give thanks for our lives, our friendships, our allies, and for so many other good things about being human (and for us, being Jewish). Chanukah is a time to think about both these things: the darkness and the light, the fragility of our lives, and the joy of being together to sing, to eat, to laugh, and to celebrate (and for this reason it is also a perfect time to be charitable to worthy causes, helping to spread light in the world).

I hope many of you will be able to join us for Rabbi Mark’s reading from his new book, *Headstone* on the 2nd-to-last day of Chanukah (see the cover for details), and to celebrate the holiday with us afterwards at our home.

Wishing you all love and light (and a happy secular New Year),

*Cantor Shoshana*

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we head into the colder months I want to assure you that the Temple is warm, and we will make every effort to keep the sidewalks clear and clean.

While we are continuing to offer services both in-person and on Zoom, we are starting to see more people come in to the Temple, which is wonderful. We still urge everyone to be cautious, wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated, and please stay home if you have any symptoms. It seems that this year the cold and flu are everywhere.

We hope to start having events again in the vestry, but right now we are working on how to have the kitchen deep cleaned after the long hiatus. Once everyone is comfortable, we will be able to bring in kosher food and beverages again.

This month Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana have generously offered to host the Chanukah party at their home. It will take place on December 25th at approximately 4 pm, after Rabbi Mark’s reading from his new award-winning poetry book, “Headstone,” which begins at 3 pm in the Temple chapel.

PLEASE NOTE: If you plan to attend the Chanukah party, you must RSVP to the Temple office no later than December 16th. There is no need to RSVP for the reading.

*Steve Silverman  
President*

**SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS**  
Cemetery Monuments and Lettering  
**Jeffrey Weissman**  
Partner  
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Fall River  
Massachusetts 02720  
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(508) 730-7104 cell  
(508) 679-9704 fax  
jeffnjan11@comcast.net

LEADERSHIP

- Mark Elber.....Rabbi
- Shoshana Brown.....Cantor
- Stephen Silverman.....President
- Jeffrey Entin.....Vice President
- Libby Cohen.....Secretary
- Robert Falconero.....Treasurer
- Libby Cohen.....Sisterhood Pres.
- William E. Kaufman.....Rabbi Emeritus

*Sisterhood President’s Message*

As I sit here preparing this message , I’m thankful I’m not in Buffalo, New York. I don’t dig being buried in the snow. It’s very cold out, and a bit windy, a perfect day for cooking. Let’s face it, we all have a few favorites that come out at Thanksgiving. One of mine is mashed turnips and carrots. It’s on my menu for sure.

Chanukah is next on our agenda. Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark are in the process of putting together a special celebration. Starting with a book reading and signing, and culminating with a candle lighting and Chanukah party. The details will be forthcoming. Please be aware that they are requesting that those attending be fully vaccinated and boosted. Reservations for supper are a must. Watch your email for updates.

So until next month, stay safe, healthy and warm.

*Libby Cohen  
Sisterhood President*

*High Holiday Flower Fund*

Our Sisterhood would like to thank the following members for sending in donations to help offset the cost of the beautiful *bimah* flowers for the High Holidays. We appreciate it!

- Sylvia Eisner
- Elaine & Harvey Reback
- Susan Bender: In memory of Sylvia Feldman



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William “BT” Hathaway  
Mike Roberts



## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**December 2022: Kislev/Tevet 5783**

|                                                    |          |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <a href="#">Friday, December 2 (8 Kislev)</a>      |          |
| Candle Lighting                                    | 3:57 pm  |
| Shabbat Service                                    | 5:30 pm  |
| <a href="#">Saturday, December 3 (9 Kislev)</a>    |          |
| Weekly Portion: Vayetzei                           | 10:00 am |
| <a href="#">Friday, December 9 (15 Kislev)</a>     |          |
| Candle Lighting                                    | 3:56 pm  |
| Shabbat Service                                    | 5:30 pm  |
| <a href="#">Saturday, December 10 (16 Kislev)</a>  |          |
| Weekly Portion: Vayishlakh                         | 10:00 am |
| <a href="#">Friday, December 16 (22 Kislev)</a>    |          |
| Candle Lighting                                    | 3:57 pm  |
| Shabbat Service                                    | 5:30 pm  |
| <a href="#">Saturday, December 17 (23 Kislev)</a>  |          |
| Weekly Portion: Vayeshev                           | 10:00 am |
| <a href="#">Sunday, December 18 (24 Kislev)</a>    |          |
| Erev Chanukah                                      |          |
| Light First Chanukah candle                        |          |
| <a href="#">Monday, December 19 (25 Kislev)</a>    |          |
| Chanukah – First Day                               |          |
| Light second Chanukah candle                       |          |
| <a href="#">Tuesday, December 20 (26 Kislev)</a>   |          |
| Chanukah – Second Day                              |          |
| Light third Chanukah candle                        |          |
| <a href="#">Wednesday, December 21 (27 Kislev)</a> |          |
| Chanukah – Third Day                               |          |
| Light fourth Chanukah candle                       |          |
| <a href="#">Thursday, December 22 (28 Kislev)</a>  |          |
| Chanukah – Fourth Day                              |          |
| Light fifth Chanukah candle                        |          |
| <a href="#">Friday, December 23 (29 Kislev)</a>    |          |
| Chanukah – Fifth Day                               |          |
| Light 6th Chanukah candle before Shabbat Candles   |          |
| Candle Lighting                                    | 4:00 pm  |
| Shabbat Service                                    | 5:30 pm  |
| <a href="#">Saturday, December 24 (30 Kislev)</a>  |          |
| Weekly Portion: Miketz                             | 10:00 am |
| Rosh Chodesh Tevet                                 |          |
| Chanukah – Sixth Day                               |          |
| Light seventh Chanukah candle after 5:06 pm        |          |
| <a href="#">Sunday, December 25 (1 Tevet)</a>      |          |
| Rosh Chodesh Tevet                                 |          |
| Chanukah – Seventh Day                             |          |
| Light eighth Chanukah candle                       |          |
| <a href="#">Monday, December 26 (2 Tevet)</a>      |          |
| Chanukah – Eighth Day                              |          |
| <a href="#">Friday, December 30 (6 Tevet)</a>      |          |
| Candle Lighting                                    | 4:05 pm  |
| Shabbat Service                                    | 5:30 pm  |

## 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 - Wednesday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

**OFFICE CLOSED:**

Monday, Dec. 26th - Bank Holiday

**TBE News & Notes**

“Man plans, and God laughs” goes the old Yiddish expression. I mentioned in last month’s bulletin that you should set aside the date of December 18th for a TBE Chanukah party at the temple, but for a variety of reasons, we now see that it will take a longer time than we expected for the kitchen and vestry to be deep-cleaned from all that accumulated over the two and a half years of the pandemic when these parts of the temple were little-used. Therefore our holiday plans have changed, and Rabbi Mark’s reading from his new book will be in the chapel at TBE on December 25th at 3 pm (the afternoon before the last candle-lighting night of Chanukah), and the Chanukah party will follow at our home around the corner.

We will also make the reading available for folks to tune into on Zoom, so I hope you can all join us in some capacity!

On December 18th, the afternoon before the 1st night of Chanukah, we will be showing a very Maccabean-type film – that is, a story of Jewish resistance against dark powers (see page 5 for more on this film). We will be done by 4 PM, so you will be home in time to light your Chanukiah!

I hope everyone is staying well this winter (yes, there is so much illness going around!), and that you all enjoyed Thanksgiving with friends and/or loved ones. We are trying our best to find our way back to hosting a communal event of some sort at the temple as soon as we can; we need to pray and sing together, but also just to be together, to schmooze and hang out. We appreciate your patience as we work to more fully reopen the temple for social gatherings; we only want to do so when we can assure the healthiest situation for everyone.

Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah and a good secular New Year!

[Saturday, December 31 \(7 Tevet\)](#)



Weekly Portion: Vayigash

10:00 am

*Thank you for your donations received through Nov. 23rd*

### YAHRZEITS

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...

Donated by:

Mother, Helene Bender  
 Mother, Suetelle Bernstein  
 Mother, Bessie Bolski  
 Mother, Bessie Bolski  
 Grandfather, Jacob Brown  
 Father, Dr. Gerson Elber  
 Mother, Lillian Feinberg  
 Father, Dr. Irving Fradkin  
 Father, Leonard Freedman  
 Mother, Rose Freedman  
 Father, Max Gold  
 Mother, Lenora Goltz  
 Mother, Alice Helfanbein  
 Father, Erwin Juda  
 Grandfather, Isadore Juda  
 Mother, Bessie Kassler  
 Brother, Stewart Kusinitz  
 Brother, Stewart Kusinitz  
 Father, Jack Leonard  
 Father, Irving Lovit  
 Mother, Sara Malin  
 Grandmother, Jennie Robinson  
 Grandmother, Jennie Robinson  
 Mother, Betty Rosenberg  
 Father, Richard Shuman  
 Brother, George Simon  
 Husband, Robert Sokoll  
 Grandfather, Benjamin Twersky

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 Berna Haberman  
 Milton Bolski  
 Norm Bolski  
 Sheila & Howard Galitsky  
 Rabbi Mark Elber  
 Sidney Feinberg  
 Russell & Jane Fradkin  
 Roberta Milstein  
 Edythe Steinberg  
 Micki Gold  
 Barbara Sheer &  
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 Peter Shuman  
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 Jay Horowitz

### CAPITAL FUND

In memory of Irma Feldman  
 Anita & Norm Bolski  
 Claire & Ron Caplain  
 Rick Schwartz  
 Steve & Judy Silverman  
 In memory of Ethel Winokoor  
 Marion Wilner

### CEMETERY FUND

In memory of my grandparents, Fanny & Hyman Sobiloff,  
 parents, Cilla & Myer Sobiloff, brother, James Sobiloff  
 Ellen Mark

### MORNING MINYAN FUND

In memory of Irma Feldman  
 For the recovery of Sylvia Eisner  
 For the yahrzeit of my beloved mother, Elizabeth Chebot  
 For the yahrzeit of my beloved, irreplaceable Hummy  
 Bill Chebot

### RABBI & CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

For the complete recovery of Sylvia Eisner  
 \ Barbara & Arthur Sheer



## SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Before he was the world-famous mime Marcel Marceau, he was Marcel Mangel, an aspiring Jewish actor who joined the French Resistance to save the lives of thousands of children orphaned at the hands of the Nazis. Jesse Eisenberg stars in this compelling drama about a group of unsung heroes who put themselves in harm's way to rise above hatred and oppression during World War II. As a young man growing up in Nazi-occupied Europe, Marcel has no intention of getting involved in the war – his pursuits include impersonating Charlie Chaplin in burlesque clubs, painting backdrops for his plays, and antagonizing his obstinate father. His life is thrown into upheaval when he is recruited into the French Resistance, putting his acting skills to the ultimate test in teaching orphaned Jewish children how to survive in the horrifying reality of the Holocaust. Based on the inspiring true story, "RESISTANCE" it follows the revolutionary tale of a selfless act that would forever change countless lives. (2 hours)

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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

12/1/2022 7 Kislev 5783

Ida Appel  
Francis F. Levin  
Leah Reback

12/2/2022 8 Kislev 5783

Dr. Barry Steinberg

12/3/2022 9 Kislev 5783

Tillie Ruderman  
Esther Weissman

12/4/2022 10 Kislev 5783

Edward Adaskin  
Julius Grozen  
Eric Lawson  
David Nadien

12/6/2022 12 Kislev 5783

Sadie Katersky

12/7/2022 13 Kislev 5783

David Cohen  
Ruth Levin

12/8/2022 14 Kislev 5783

Hattie Caplain

12/10/2022 16 Kislev 5783

Gary Reitzas

12/11/2022 17 Kislev 5783

Judy Berg  
Sylvia T. Reback

12/15/2022 21 Kislev 5783

Edith Gold

12/16/2022 22 Kislev 5783

Hummy Chebot  
Barry Novek

12/17/2022 23 Kislev 5783

Alice Helfanbein  
Elizabeth Beryl Waksler  
Donna Ann Wolfson

12/20/2022 26 Kislev 5783

Henry William Juda  
Phyllis Nerenberg  
Samuel Rotenberg  
Julius Simpson

12/21/2022 27 Kislev 5783

Herbert Fleisher  
Shirley Resnick

12/22/2022 28 Kislev 5783

Ann Freedman  
David Kotlen  
Bernard Miller

12/23/2022 29 Kislev 5783

Ada Haims  
Robert Lipson

12/24/2022 30 Kislev 5783

Abraham D. Becker  
Rose Tallman

12/25/2022 1 Tevet 5783

Sanford Litchman

12/27/2022 3 Tevet 5783

William Gittelman  
Milton Elis Raffel

12/28/2022 4 Tevet 5783

Isaac Schwartz  
Jacob Yamins

12/29/2022 5 Tevet 5783

Sonja Calman

12/30/2022 6 Tevet 5783

Sarah Jacobson

12/31/2022 7 Tevet 5783

Dr. Myron Rubinstein  
Selma Sokoll



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