TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

97th Year February 2025 Sh'vat 5785 No. 5

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

POST-CHANUKAH PARTY



A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

Welcome to the Hebrew month of Sh'vat, best known for the Jewish New Year for Trees that occurs in the very middle of the month, the 15th day, known in Hebrew as Tu BiSh'vat. As I'm sure most of you know, every Hebrew letter has a numerical equivalent. The number "fifteen" in Hebrew letters is represented by a "tet" and a "vav" which together is pronounced "Tu." The middle of the month is when the full moon occurs, so Tu BiSh'vat, like Purim and the beginnings of Sukkot and Passover all occur on a full moon.

In ancient times there were four Jewish New Years. The most famous, of course, is the New Year in the fall, on the first and second days of Tishrei, which our tradition considers the anniversary of Creation. The first day of Nisan in the spring is considered the first month of the Jewish calendar because that is the month during which we celebrate our liberation from slavery in Egypt and, therefore, the beginning of our true peoplehood. It also, incidentally, was when the years of a king's reign were calculated i.e. from one Nisan to the next. So even though the first two days of Tishrei are the best known "Rosh Hashanah," Tishrei is actually considered the seventh month of the year in the Torah.

The month that precedes Tishrei is Elul, the first day of which is considered the New Year for tithing cattle in the Torah during which an animal would be brought to the ancient Temple and offered as a sacrifice and subsequently eaten by the family sacrificing it in the Temple. Elul is a month of preparation for the deep task of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur during which we're expected to take an accounting of ourselves and recalibrate how we want to live. The name Elul (spelled aleph, lamed, vav, lamed) was also taken by our sages as an acronym of a phrase from the Biblical book, The Song of Songs (Shir Hashirim), which our ancient sages interpreted not as the pastoral collection of love poems that it appears to be in a literal reading of the book, but rather as a love poem between G!d and the Jewish people. Elul is taken as an acronym for "ani l'dodi v'dodi li" (I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine – "ani" begins with an aleph) - alluding to the strong connection to the Divine that we seek to cultivate even more than usual in the month preceding Rosh Hashanah in the fall.

There is a clear rhythm to the Jewish week, month, and year, strongly tied to nature and the cycles of the moon. The only day of the week that has a name is Shabbat. All other days are named by their relationship to Shabbat. Every week culminates with Shabbat which begins, as you all know, with sunset on Friday evening and ends when three stars would be visible in the clear night sky. The connection to the rhythms of nature with sunset and sunrise are obvious. At home, traditionally, we usher in Shabbat with

candle lighting (of two candles) before sunset, blessing our children, and then beginning the traditional meal with Kiddush. Though it's customary to make Kiddush at the end of the Friday evening service in the synagogue, it's traditional to subsequently make it at home. At home we begin with an additional paragraph which begins with: "Yom Hashishi; Vay'khulu Hashamayim (the sixth day; and the heavens were finished...). If you pay close attention, you'll notice that the first letters of the first four words of this kiddush said at home is made up of the most important name of G!d in the Torah (Y-H-V-H).

Though Tu BiSh'vat was important in biblical times when our ancestors lived in the land of Israel, it ceased to be as significant after our exile from the land. However, its significance had a resurgence in the 1500s when a kabbalistic community arose in northern Israel in the city of Tzfat (or Safed in English), about fifty years after our expulsion from Spain in 1492. From about the year 1,000 until 1492, the Jewish community in Spain was the most important community in the diaspora. There was an incredible flowering of Torah commentators, Hebrew poets, grammarians, philosophers, and mystics. When that community was destroyed, a number of very important thinkers ended up in northern Israel, in Tzfat, particularly those involved in Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism). Tzfat is the next town over from Meron in the mountains of the northern Galilee. Meron was where Shimon Bar Yokhai and his son, El'azar, hid from the Romans for thirteen years. Shimon Bar Yokhai was traditionally believed to be the author of the most influential kabbalistic text, the Zohar, which he was supposed to have composed while he and his son were hiding in a cave in Meron. One of the main kabbalistic symbols of the emanation of Divine energy that creates, gives life to, and sustains the world is that of the cosmic Tree of Life. The kabbalists of Tzfat first created a Tu BiSh'vat seder in the 1500s. With the return of Jewish exiles from the diaspora to the land of Israel with the advent of Zionism (in the late 1800s), with their reconnection with the land and its flora and fauna, Tu BiSh'vat also became a revived holiday even among the most secular Jews.

Despite 2,000 years of exile from the land, when most of world Jewry lived in the lands of the dispersion, our tradition always kept the land of Israel central in our prayers and our dreams. Without that continued connection, the revival of Jewish life and the Hebrew language in the land of Israel would never have happened. Sadly, that revival has never been easy. In many ways it is a modern miracle, but one we can never take for granted. During the 1,300 or so years that we were sovereign in our own land, there were often times that our sovereignty was threatened. And yet, with all that, we managed to produce such incredible spiritual treasures as the Bible, the Talmud, Midrash, etc. With all its challenges, Israel continues to be the vibrant and creative center of Jewish life. May we soon see peace in the land and the return of all the hostages.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Things are moving along as we work out the many details on how best to move forward with the sale of the Temple complex as well as many of its contents.

We are still looking at any and all options to continue to have a strong Jewish presence in the Fall River area. Part of our timeline hinges on the preschool's departure from the school building. Their lease goes through October 31st.

Before we sell the complex we want to get established at our new location so that we can move in and ramp up gradually. At this time we are assessing the option of sharing space with the Unitarian Church on North Main Street. If this works out, we plan to be there for at least a few months. Cantor Shoshana and our relocation team have visited the site and have a positive view of the space.

In 2026, we will assess options to lease a space, buy something, or stay in the shared space.

During 2025 we will have one or two auction sales of building contents. We will likely only be able to keep 5-10% of all the items we presently have. These auctions will include kitchen goods, furniture, pews, books, etc.

In regards to the Judaica and holy items, Rabbi Mark, Cantor Shoshana, Nancy Seibert and I are reviewing all of these items (Torahs, prayer books, etc) and will determine what to keep, what to sell, etc.

A separate issue concerns the Temple cemetery. It is currently a part of the Temple, but we are exploring the option of legally separating it from the Temple so it is an independent entity. We have been advised that this is a good course of action to protect the cemetery from the Temple's financial constraints. On a very positive note, the cemetery is fully funded in perpetuity.

Some of these major actions, including the sale of the complex and the separation of the cemetery, must be put to a vote of the full membership. We plan to do that at the annual congregational meeting in June. We will keep you advised well in advance so you can plan to come in person if at all possible. We will set the date of the meeting soon, and send out a letter with more specific information in May.

As we sadly lost Ken Littman last year, we realized we needed to hire a new law firm to help us navigate the road ahead. We have selected Brainsky Levinson, LLC. Eric Brainsky is Jewish and will handle items related to Judaica. Mike Levinson is the lawyer for a local church and is familiar with the unique legal elements of religious institutions having property, cemeteries, endowments, etc.

We are still open to new ideas about where to move, how to dispose of contents, or even better, ways to save the building. If you have any ideas please let us know and we will look into them.

Rick Schwartz President

Sisterhood President's Message

I hope this piece finds everyone in good health. We are now in the throes of winter, and if you're anything like me spring cannot come soon enough. The days are getting longer, and that's a step in the right direction.

On January 18th we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Leonard Lehrer's bar mitzvah. A lovely kiddish was sponsored by Leonard and his wife Soili. This Shabbos was enjoyed by all who participated in this event.

On Sunday, January 5th, we held our post-Chanukah party. It was an afternoon of social conversation, latkes, all kinds of goodies and a wonderful movie. These get-togethers are a great way to reconnect with our Temple family.

Please save this date. On February 15th we will again have our monthly "Make a Minyan", services at 10 am followed by a special kiddush. At this time, we will pay homage to Tu BiSh'vat, the "New Year of the Trees". Please plan on joining us. The more, the merrier!

There will be different things happening in the near future, so please watch your e-mail for updates.

So, until next month, stay safe and healthy.

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President



LEADERSHIP

.Rabbi
Cantor
sident
sident
retary
asurer
d Pres.
eritus
֡

Service Schedule

February 2025: Sh'vat 5785

Saturday, February 1 (3 Sh'vat) Weekly Portion: Bo 10:00 am

Friday, February 7 (9 Sh'vat)

Candle Lighting 4:51 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, February 8 (10 Sh'vat)

Shabbat Shirah

Weekly Portion: B'shalakh 10:00 am

Thursday, February 13 (15 Sh'vat)

Tu BiSh'vat (Jewish Arbor Day)

Friday, February 14 (16 Sh'vat)

Candle Lighting: 4:59 pm Shabbat Service: 5:30 pm

Saturday, February 15 (17 Sh'vat)

Weekly Portion: Yitro 10:00 am

Friday, February 21 (23 Sh'vat)

Candle Lighting: 5:08 pm Shabbat Service: 5:30 pm

Saturday, February 22 (24 Sh'vat)

Weekly Portion: Mishpatim 10:00 am

Friday, February 28 (30 Sh'vat)

Rosh Chodesh Adar

Candle Lighting: 5:17 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, February 17th - Presidents' Day

ZOOM LINKS

Zoom links for regular and special services are now available on our website: www.frtemplebethel.org

"Make a Minyan"

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us either in the chapel or on Zoom. The service begins at 10 am, but please be sure to arrive before 11 am in order to be counted.

February's "Make a Minyan" will be Saturday, February 15th, followed by a kiddush luncheon featuring nuts and fresh and dried fruits in honor of Tu biSh'vat, the "Jewish New Year for the Trees." This special kiddush is sponsored by Karen Sokol, in memory of her husband, Dennis Sokol and her parents, Dorothy & Jerry Gold.

March's "Make a Minyan" will be Saturday, March 22nd. Please join us!



Kim Cohen Reynolds and Kyle Belford Platnico met in the Temple Beth El preschool and have been friends for over 55 years. This year Kim went to St. Louis, Missouri to visit Kyle and they celebrated Chanukah together. Another Temple Beth El alumni reunion!

PROUDLY SERVING our community





HOME OF MEMORIAL TRIBUTE
AT CHERRY PLACE

178 Winter St. FALL RIVER

508-676-1933 Waring-Sullivan.com

A Service Family Affiliate of AFFS and Service Corporation International, 206 Winter St., Fall River, MA 02720. 508-676-2454.

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.

TBE News & Notes

The best laid plans...as you all know by now, the **TBE Chanukah party** that was to have been held at the Brown/Elber household had to be rescheduled and relocated due to our whole family having come down with COVID together. Rabbi Mark, Lev and I shared a lot of varieties of soup and much togetherness as we weathered our illness together, holding services once again on Zoom – reminding us of the old days of the pandemic!

Our post-Chanukah party was held on January 5th at TBE, where we didn't light candles or sing Chanukah songs, but we did enjoy latkes, applesauce and a variety of cakes, as well as a beautiful and fascinating Israeli movie, *The Secrets (HaSodot)*.

On Saturday, January 18th, we celebrated **the 50th anniversary** of our vice-president, **Leonard Lehrer's, bar mitzvah**. It was a wonderful service, with a full chapel and many relative "newcomers" to the *bimah* to recite the Torah blessings. Mazel tov to all!

On Monday January 20th, Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana took part in a **community celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's life at the Bethel AME Church** in Fall River, with Rabbi Mark offering some reflections and Cantor Shoshana singing a special song that she composed using phrases from King's most famous speeches.

Our Make a Minyan for February will be

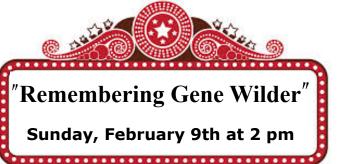


Saturday, February 15th, beginning at 10 AM (with the Torah service at around 11). Come join us for the chanting of Yitro, the portion that contains the 10 Commandments, and share a kiddush lunch afterwards replete with fresh and dried fruits in honor of "the Jewish New Year for the Trees," Tu BiSh'vat (which falls on February 13th). This photo of a live oak was taken

by Cantor Shoshana while on a trip in 2007 with her mom in Ojai, CA.

Save the Date for our TBE celebration of Purim: Ma'ariv, Megillah reading and Purim refreshments on Thursday evening, March 13th at 5:30.

Our "Make a Minyan" for March will be on Shabbat, March 22nd.



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES

From *The Producers* to *Willy Wonka*; from *Blazing Saddles* to *Young Frankenstein*...to The *Frisco Kid* to *Stir Crazy*, and many more wild and wacky adventures, Gene Wilder was one of our most unique, sweet, and funny Jewish actors (and directors). This 2023 documentary on his life and career (with a focus also on the end of his life when he was challenged with Alzheimer's) is delightful, funny, sad, and heartwarming. Featuring interviews with Wilder, Mel Brooks, Alan Alda, Carol Kane and others both in and out of Hollywood, it is a true treat. (1 hour, 32 minutes).





Carleen Makowski celebrating her first aliyah after her conversion. Mazel toy!

Thank you for your donations received through Jan. 27th

YAHRZEITS

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

Cousin, Judy BergRick SchwartzMother, Bessie BolskiMilton Bolski

Father & grandfather, Cohen & Novek families

David Cohen

Father, Dr. Gerson ElberRabbi Mark ElberMother, Edith GoldMicki GoldMother, Alice HelfanbeinBarry HelfanbeinFather, Dr. Jacob HelfanbeinBarry Helfanbein

Mother & grandmother, Michael & Charron Holtzman

Sheila Holtzman

Father, Paul Horowitz
Husband, Seymour Kevelson
Mother, Miriam Klein
Grandfather, Francis Levin
Sarah Zaino
Sarah Zaino

Husband, Michael R. Makowski

Mother & grandmother,
Phyllis Nerenberg

Carleen Makowski

Anna Nerenberg, Marc,
Lee & Jacqueline Bernstein

Husband, father, grandfather, Novek Family

Barry Novek

Mother, Leah Reback Dr. Harvey Reback Wife, Sylvia Reback Dr. Harvey Reback Aunt, Lottie Bloom Sandler Samuel Billard Uncle, Dr. Samuel Sandler Samuel Billard Father, Isaac Schwartz Ginny Lepow Mother, Paula E. Shuman David Shuman Mother, Paula E. Shuman Peter Lex Shuman Father, Nathan Silk Nancy Deady Mother, Lillian Simon Carol Marlin Father, Maurice Sludsky Paula Sultan Mother, Yetta Sludsky Paula Sultan Mother, Janet Smith Sheryl Eilberg

Mother, Caroline Spiro Vivian & Lionel Spiro Father, Harry Spiro Vivian & Lionel Spiro Husband, Dr. Barry Steinberg **Edythe Steinberg** Husband, Allen Taradash Shirley Taradash Father-in-law, Murray Taradash Shirley Taradash Mother, Lillian Woltman Joanne Tuck Father, Paul Woltman Joanne Tuck Mother, Esther Weissman Jeffrey Weissman Marion Wilner Husband, Myron Wilner

Father, Charles Zalkind Deborah Zalkind Semine Mother, Sylvia Zalkind Deborah Zalkind Semine

Father, Carl Zeitz Marjorie Keith Mother, June Zeitz Marjorie Keith

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved mother, Arline G. Alpert Sandra Alpert Pankiw

BUILDING FUND

In memory of my beloved parents, Clarence & Sonja Calman, and my beloved grandparents, Maurice & Sarah Calman and Cantor Marcus & Edith Gerlich

Dr. Neil Calman

ANNA & MORRIS LEPES CEMETERY FUND

In memory of our beloved parents, Anna & Morris Lepes

Ellen & Terry Shand & Family

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Bill Chebot's 97th birthday

Norm & Anita Bolski

In honor of Leonard Lehrer's bar mitzvah celebration

Robert Falconero Carleen Makowski

In honor of Dr. Harvey & Mrs. Elaine Weiss Reback, and in celebration of Elaine's 78th birthday

Eva Julius

In honor of Temple Beth El

Matthew Pelikan & Lori Shaller Deborah Zalkind Semine

Prayers for the strong survival of the State of Israel and Jews

all over the world

Cheryl Crossley-Simmons

In memory of Greta (Markell) Herman

Russell & Jane Fradkin

In memory of Bernard "Buzzy" Labush

Libby Cohen

In memory of Dr. Herb Rubin

Dr. Joseph & Mrs. Cindy Levy Dr. Ronald & Mrs. Carol Schwartz

In memory of my beloved husband, Allen Taradash

Shirley Taradash

MORNING MINYAN FUND

In memory of my beloved wife, Hummy

Bill Chebot

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Ella Friedman In memory of Dr. Herbert Rubin

Ron & Claire Caplain

DR. & MRS. N. KENNETH SHAND MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of our beloved parents, Dr. N. Kenneth Shand & Ruth Shand

Ellen & Terry Shand & Family

SPECIAL GIFTS

In memory of my beloved parents, Gloria & Jerry Baskin, and beloved grandparents, Ida & David Appel

Laurie Baskin & Family

In memory of my beloved husband, Peter D. Kane

Dr. Marcelline Doctor-Kane

TEMPLE FAMILY

A very happy 97th birthday to Bill Chebot!

JANUARY YAHRZEITS (AS WE DIDN'T PUBLISH A JANUARY BULLETIN)

1/2/2025 2 Tevet 5785 Sidney Fox

1/3/2025 3 Tevet 5785 William Gittelman Milton Elis Raffel Mary Seibert

1/4/2025 4 Tevet 5785 Isaac Schwartz

1/5/2025 5 Tevet 5785 Sonja Calman

1/7/2025 7 Tevet 5785 Dr. Myron Rubinstein Selma Sokoll

1/8/2025 8 Tevet 5785 Howard Krasnow Leon Nathan Malin

1/10/2025 10 Tevet 5785 Arthur Granovsky Mathilda H. Raffel

1/11/2025 11 Tevet 5785 Arline Alpert Robert Sokoll

1/12/2025 12 Tevet 5785 Sylvia Schneider 1/13/2025 13 Tevet 5785 Paula E. Shuman Maurice Sludsky

1/14/2025 14 Tevet 5785 Nathan Silk

1/16/2025 16 Tevet 5785 Herman Gitlin Bessie Gladstone Frank Kosofsky David Thaler

1/17/2025 17 Tevet 5785 Sophie Cohen Louis M. Raffel Milton Reiser

1/18/2025 18 Tevet 5785 Samuel Kay Harry Spiro Murray Taradash

1/19/2025 19 Tevet 5785 Dr. Samuel Sandler

1/20/2025 20 Tevet 5785 Samuel Isaac Siegel Janet Smith

1/22/2025 22 Tevet 5785 Martha Kaufmann Sylvia Zalkind 1/23/2025 23 Tevet 5785
Fannie Wilner Aranov
Ruth Gerard
Harriet Grunberg
Mae Hodosh
Sarah Kaplan
Dolores Leviss
Dr. Donald Rotenberg

1/24/2025 24 Tevet 5785 Bruce Kay

1/25/2025 25 Tevet 5785 Robert Chavenson

1/26/2025 26 Tevet 5785 Lillian Kline Anna Ellison Schaffer Sarah Sobiloff

1/27/2025 27 Tevet 5785 Sheila Holtzman

1/29/2025 29 Tevet 5785 Victor Field Paula Fox Birdie Phillips

1/31/2025 2 Shevat 5785 Betty Greenberg Dorothy S. Levin

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Leonard Lehrer's bar mitzvah!











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,

Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

FEBRUARY YAHRZEITS

2/1/2025 3 Sh'vat 5785 Rose Moss

2/2/2025 4 Sh'vat 5785 George Hodosh

2/3/2025 5 Sh'vat 5785 Harry Weissman

2/4/2025 6 Sh'vat 5785 Max Horvitz Charles Rosenberg Philip Shapiro

2/5/2025 7 Sh'vat 5785 Louise Macy

2/6/2025 8 Sh'vat 5785 Dr. Leonard Lechan

2/7/2025 9 Sh'vat 5785 Abraham Ehrenhaus Augusta Kaufmann

2/8/2025 10 Sh'vat 5785 Normand Futoransky

2/9/2025 11 Sh'vat 5785 Clarence Calman

2/10/2025 12 Sh'vat 5785 Tylda Schwartz Cilla Sobiloff Arnold Wolfson

2/11/2025 13 Sh'vat 5785 Maurice Calman 2/12/2025 14 Sh'vat 5785 Louis Freedman Esther Mickelson William Shriberg

Morris Wilner

2/13/2025 15 Sh'vat 5785 Margot Bogus Adolph Feder Cyril Hochberg Sheila Lash

2/14/2025 16 Sh'vat 5785 Sandra Bogus Abner Kravitz

2/15/2025 17 Sh'vat 5785 Jack Mickelson Charles Novek

2/16/2025 18 Sh'vat 5785 Edith Gerlich Ada Wolfson

2/17/2025 19 Sh'vat 5785 Mildred Trieff

2/18/2025 20 Sh'vat 5785 Lottie Bloom Sandler Eugene Joseph Silverman

2/19/2025 21 Sh'vat 5785 Atty. Lloyd Belford Ronald Schneider, MD 2/20/2025 22 Sh'vat 5785 Seymour Filler Martin Schlam

2/21/2025 23 Sh'vat 5785 Bernice Hoffman

2/22/2025 24 Sh'vat 5785 Morris Lepes Dorothy Schwartz

2/23/2025 25 Sh'vat 5785 Simon Goldberg Dr. Michael Makowski

2/24/2025 26 Sh'vat 5785 Dr. Jacob Helfanbein

2/25/2025 27 Sh'vat 5785 Samuel M. Schwartz

2/26/2025 28 Sh'vat 5785 Madeline Leonard

2/27/2025 29 Sh'vat 5785 Blossom Granovsky Sidney Lechan Hyman Lipshitz Ida Woltman Hilda Zaslow

2/28/2025 30 Sh'vat 5785 Dr. Harry Cooperstein Nathaniel Dashoff

Meaningful Services from a Trusted Friend Since 1893

Respectfully honoring the customs and traditions of the Jewish community, funerals are in strict accordance with Jewish Law.

508-673-0781



Clifton HEALTHCARE CAMPUS

Wilbur Avenue, Somerset, MA 02725

Clifton Rehabilitative Nursing Center 508-675-7589 Clifton Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic

508-675-0329 Clifton Assisted Living Community

> 508-324-0200 Clifton Hospice Services (a community hospice agency)

508-675-7583

Celebrating Over 60 Years of Dedication to Excellence