

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



96th Year

February 2024

Sh'vat/Adar I 5784

No. 6

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

To the congregation of Temple Beth El,

Please know that you're being lifted in prayer along with the people of Israel and Jewish people around the world. We belong to the Union Methodist Church in Fall River, and your Christian friends long for peace for Israel and peace in your hearts.

God bless you all, and may He watch over each and every one of you always.

With hate spreading around the world, please accept this card as a message of love and support.

When several members of our congregation read about your congregation's challenges with your building and the hard decisions you all are making, they were moved to reach out to you all in friendship. If, during this process of discernment, you all need a place to meet to worship or gather, we would like to offer our sanctuary to you. One advantage to being in the congregational tradition is that the sanctuary is rather plain which may make it a somewhat comfortable place for you to worship.

Even if this offer isn't what you need right now, please know that we are a friend just down the road if you need one.



Recognize anyone? Any idea of the year? If so, please let us know!

A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Shoshana Brown

The Radical Power of Hanging Out

Perhaps every generation feels this way, but it seems to me that we live in especially “fraught” times. As I write this column, a report has just been released by the Department of Justice on what went wrong at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, back in May of 2022. Nineteen children and two teachers lost their lives that day, while the 376 law enforcement officers that descended upon the school remained outside the classroom where those innocents were gunned down – and yet the Texas state legislature is still refusing to pass a bill that would raise the required age in Texas for purchasing a semi-automatic rifle from 18 to 21. (The gunman at Uvalde was 19).

Meanwhile, in Israel/Palestine, peace seems as elusive as it has ever been – with much of the world accusing Israel of intentional violations of human rights and even “genocide” – while Hamas, for its part, is still refusing to release over 100 hostages (some of them elderly, women, and children), and, by many reports, seizing most of the humanitarian aid that makes it into Gaza for themselves and their fighters, leaving civilian Gazans to starve.

There is, of course, still much *good* in this world. There are wonderful, kind, courageous and generous people who give of their time and their talents to try to make this world a more beautiful place, to make life fairer and safer for everyone – and in some cases, for all God’s creatures.

Depending on where you look, you may be inclined to feel dispirited and pessimistic about the world today – or hopeful and inspired. What seems important to me, when trying to maintain a balanced view of the world, is remembering what it is that makes our time on this earth worthwhile. What is deeply meaningful to us? What brings us joy?

As much as we may want life to be “fair” for all people (though my mother always told me, “don’t expect life to be *fair*”), sometimes we have to “lighten up,” and allow ourselves to simply enjoy the company of friends and family: to have a meal, enjoy a lively discussion, take a walk, play a board game or go bowling together – possibly going for *hours* without checking our phones!

This past summer I read a book by Sheila Liming (a creative writing professor at Champlain College with whom Lev is studying this semester) called

Hanging Out: the Radical Power of Killing Time (2023). I don’t remember now many specifics of Liming’s book, but the basic message was that our lives have become too crowded with anxiety-producing content and appointments, and that people have become much less open than in the pre-digital age to serendipitous, unscheduled “hanging out” with others.

Liming is a musician, and she writes about having accidentally walked with her instrument into a gathering of other musicians while visiting Asheville, NC, and of how they “jammed” for hours – a totally unplanned event. We all have memories of occasions like this – of wonderful times had with others when we least expected it. Such times are the “spice” of life – renewing our joy in living.

One of the benefits of a synagogue community is that we offer a gathering place for people to come together. Some of us find deep meaning in praying and singing together, or in learning Torah. But that is not all we offer: our adult ed class is a great place for conversations on fascinating topics; during the temperate months some of us enjoy walking together in beautiful areas of the Southcoast – while we walk, we share our lives; and recently, many of us greatly enjoyed food and fellowship at our TBE Chanukah party.

We all know that we are beset with a Jewish demographics challenge in the Fall River area. But *numbers* are not everything. What is important for the vitality of our community is that we stay *active* – that we put down our phones, clear our calendars, and *participate* in lively fellowship with one another.

There are no special Jewish holidays this month, but I hope you will join us for a Shabbat service, a Sunday afternoon movie, or some Jewish learning. We can discuss both the inspiring and the worrisome aspects of our world, or just enjoy a good laugh together. As I write this, I have just returned from our monthly Jewish Sunday afternoon movie, *This Is Where I Leave You*. This comedy of a family sitting *shiva* was the most laugh-out-loud movie I have seen in a very long time. There is something about humor that is *shared*...it is just *funnier* when shared with a group of people. The important thing, if we want our Temple Beth El community to stay vibrant, is that we do not shy away from the radical act of “hanging out” together. It can help keep us all individually “young at heart,” and it holds the secret to keeping our synagogue-community alive, so that this congregation will still be here to serve others for many future generations. I hope to see many of you soon!

Cantor Shoshana

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The past few months have been interesting, to say the least. Shortly after our congregation received the letter about the need to move to a smaller home, the media got a hold of it and there were articles and television interviews galore. If you haven’t yet seen the article that was recently published in the Herald News, please go to our website. It was an excellent article, with outstanding photos, filled with nostalgia for the good old days. Many thanks to Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana for doing a great job with the interviews, with essentially no notice, but also to the people in the background, especially Bob Falconero, Ken Littman and Rick Schwartz.

We are preparing to choose a real estate broker to see what our next steps should be. Please know that we have no plans to close -- just to move. And our cemetery is in good shape. Thanks to foresight and a successful fundraising campaign in 1990, organized by Anne Prial, Gladys Sugarman, Joseph Shaw, Sanford Litchman and Morris Lepes, our cemetery will continue to be privately maintained for at least one hundred years.

We have received numerous phone calls, emails and notes of support, from Jews and non-Jews alike. And while everyone is saddened by the need to move, they also understand what we are facing.

We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward.

*Steve Silverman
President*

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

Friendly Visitor: Arleen Bor is ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Please call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.

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

Hello February, the shortest month of the year, but this year we have an extra day added to it thanks to it being a Leap Year. Another day to hunker down and do our best to keep warm. I myself will be happy when we welcome spring.

On the 19th of the month, we recognize President’s Day. Not only do we honor George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and all of the presidents, but for me it is also a time that is famous for auto sales. But in this time of turmoil, we should give thanks for the bravery of men like Washington and Lincoln, who helped shape our nation.

Hopefully, as the weather moderates, we’ll all come out of our self-imposed hibernation and start to be out and about more. There is so much to live for.

So, until next month stay warm and safe. Watch your e-mail for all the latest developments at the Temple. Marie does a stellar job keeping us informed.

*Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President*

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 19th - Presidents Day

My First Chanukah Party!

During Chanukah Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana opened their home to members of TBE on December 10th for a celebration of the Festival of Lights. I was excited to participate in my first Chanukah party. The hosts were warm and welcoming as always. The TBE Jewish community that attended gave me the feeling of “family,” our Jewish community family. The food, the songs and the music were delightful. It was a wonderful experience. The feeling of belonging to this Jewish community was amazing. I want to thank Rabbi Mark, Cantor Shoshana and everyone who attended the party, most of whom I already knew from previous occasions. I look forward to next year’s Chanukah celebration, as my first as a Jew.

Carleen Makowski

Thank you for your donations received through Jan. 26th

Yahrzeits

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...	Donated by:
Mother, Margot Bogus	Tilden Bogus
Sister, Sandra Bogus	Tilden Bogus
Father, Louis Freedman	Joyce Goldweitz
Mother, Ruth Gerard	Jay Gerard
Father, Dr. Jacob Helfanbein	Barry Helfanbein
Father, Cyril Hochberg	Stacey Quandt
Mother, Sheila Holtzman	Michael & Charron Holtzman & Family
Brother, Henry William Juda	Joyce Juda
Mother, Martha Kaufmann	David Kaufmann
Mother, Sheila Lash	Gillian Perlinski
Mother, Sheila Lash	Alison Rode
Father, Dr. Leonard Lechan	Robin Fielding
Mother, Dorothy Levin	Ruth Levin
Husband, Dr. Michael Makowski	Carleen Makowski
Mother, Esther Mickelson	Beverly Solup
Father, Jack Mickelson	Beverly Solup
Mother, Rose Moss	Shirley Taradash
Mother, Anna Ellison Schaffer	Donna Walters
Husband, Dr. Ronald Schneider	Ada Jill Schneider
Father, Isaac Schwartz	Ginny Lepow
Mother, Tylda Schwartz	Ginny Lepow
Father, Philip Shapiro	Stephen Shapiro
Father, Maurice Sludsky	Paula Sultan
Mother, Janet Smith	Sheryl Eilberg
Grandmother, Rose Tallman	Wally Lowenthal Davis, Harriet Lowenthal, Jill Lowenthal Brown
Husband, Allen Taradash	Shirley Taradash
Father-in-law, Murray Taradash	Shirley Taradash

Building Fund

In honor of Temple Beth El
Tom and Diana Gregory

Capital Fund

In honor of Bill Chebot's birthday
Howie & Sheila Galitsky

In honor of the birthday of my beloved husband, Dr. Michael R. Makowski
Carleen Makowski

Cemetery Fund

For the yahrzeit of my beloved mother, Celia Sobilloff
Ellen Mark

IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON

Scholarship Fund

In memory of husband and father, Frank Kosofsky
Judith, Gary & Lori Kosofsky

Bernard Horowitz

Building Maintenance Fund

In memory of Annette and Bernie Horowitz

In memory of Anna Shabshelowitz

Arlyne Dondis

Special Gifts

In loving memory of my husband, Peter D. Kane

Dr. Marcellene Doctor Kane

Service Schedule

February 2024: Sh'vat/Adar I 5784

Friday, February 2 (23 Sh'vat)

Candle Lighting	4:43 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 3 (24 Sh'vat)

Weekly Portion: Yitro	10:00 am
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Friday, February 9 (30 Sh'vat)

Rosh Chodesh Adar I	
Candle Lighting	4:52 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 10 (1 Adar I)

Rosh Chodesh Adar I	
Weekly Portion: Mishpatim	10:00 am

Friday, February 16 (7 Adar I)

Candle Lighting	5:01 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 17 (8 Adar I)

Weekly Portion: Terumah	10:00 am
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Friday, February 23 (14 Adar I)

Candle Lighting	5:10 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 24 (15 Adar I)

Weekly Portion: Tetzaveh	10:00 am
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SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

Cemetery Monuments and Lettering

Jeffrey Weissman

Partner

59 Greenlawn Street
Fall River
Massachusetts 02720

(508) 676-0335
(508) 730-7104 cell
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jeffnjan11@comcast.net



TBE News & Notes

This February is a “quiet” month this Jewish year – in part, due to the fact that this year is a Jewish leap year, with February 9th marking the first day of the Hebrew month of Adar I, which pushes off Purim this year to the end of March, and then Passover to April 22. Nevertheless, we *will* be holding our “Make a Minyan” Shabbat service on Saturday, February 17th, with Torah reading and a kiddush luncheon to follow – please join us!

Our next “Sunday Afternoon at the Jewish Movies” showing will be on Sunday, February 25, at 2 PM. The selected film, *Image of Victory*, although set in 1948, is terribly relevant to events in Israel and Gaza today (see the next column for more details).

With the news about our board’s decision to put our Temple complex up for sale getting a lot of press, Mark and I have received many emails of appreciation from Fall River Jewish expatriates – and also from plenty of non-Jews in the area for whom our temple building, along with its congregation, has somehow played an important part in their experience of Fall River. One of these non-Jewish supporters sent me the photograph on the cover of this bulletin – I wonder if any of you reading this bulletin can identify any friends or family members (or yourself!) and thus give an accurate ballpark date for when this photo was taken? I know the photo will be extremely tiny when printed, so take a look at it on our website, so you can zoom in!

“Make a Minyan” Shabbat Service

Please join us on Saturday, February 17th at 10:00 am in the chapel or on Zoom. It has been wonderful to hear Torah chanted at these special services, and we can’t do it without you! Nice Kiddush-luncheon to follow!

Please mark your calendars and be sure to arrive (in person or on Zoom) before 11 am!

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“IMAGE OF VICTORY”
Sunday, Feb. 25th at 2 pm

SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Nominated for 15 Israeli Ophir awards, *Image of Victory* (2022), directed by Avi Nesher, was inspired by real events: the film provides a nuanced look at circumstances leading up to the June 1948 fighting at Kibbutz Nitzanim, viewed from both Egyptian and Israeli perspectives. Its consideration of how storytelling and visual images can be weaponized makes it a tale with great resonance for these times. It also introduces the film’s narrator, Egyptian journalist Hassanin, who is tasked with documenting the Arab fight to displace the Jews.

When Hassanin documents a failed attack on the kibbutz, his footage is destroyed back in Cairo, but it does inspire the Egyptian generals to send in their professional army, especially after the Israelis declare independence. While pressure grows on Hassanin to film a victory, the inhabitants of Nitzanim must decide what to do as the kibbutz becomes increasingly isolated, with no reinforcements available for their defense. Running time: 130 minutes.



An almost-full moon rising over a hill on Cape Cod in late December.

Temple Family

- Congratulations to Judith Kosofsky on the birth of her great-grandson, Asher Frank Gerstein Cox, born on New Year’s Day!

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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

2/1/2024 22 Sh'vat 5784
Seymour Filler
Martin Schlam

2/2/2024 23 Sh'vat 5784
Herman Bernstein
Bernice Hoffman

2/3/2024 24 Sh'vat 5784
Morris Lepes
Dorothy Schwartz

2/4/2024 25 Sh'vat 5784
Simon Goldberg
Dr. Michael Makowski

2/5/2024 26 Sh'vat 5784
Dr. Jacob Helfanbein

2/6/2024 27 Sh'vat 5784
Samuel M. Schwartz

2/7/2024 28 Sh'vat 5784
Madeline Leonard

2/8/2024 29 Sh'vat 5784
Blossom Granovsky
Sidney Lechan
Hyman Lipshitz
Ida Woltman
Hilda Zaslou

2/10/2024 1 Adar I 5784
William Wolfson

2/11/2024 2 Adar I 5784
Isaac Bolski
Joy Field
Hyman Karp

2/13/2024 4 Adar I 5784
Bernard Chebot
Sadie Lovit

2/15/2024 6 Adar I 5784
Morris Haims
Edith Kusnitz
Philip Ostroff
Bertha Weinstock
Philip Zalkind

2/16/2024 7 Adar I 5784
Adelle Wiener

2/17/2024 8 Adar I 5784
Elena Lee Cohen
Selma Juda
Mannis Shapiro

2/18/2024 9 Adar I 5784
Helen Babin

2/19/2024 10 Adar I 5784
Richard Rosenberg

2/20/2024 11 Adar I 5784
Louis I. Galitsky
Hyman B. Gollub
George Sandler

2/21/2024 12 Adar I 5784
Louis Bachman
Mollie Cohen
Hyman Levine

2/22/2024 13 Adar I 5784
Robert M. Cohen
Walter Seibert

2/24/2024 15 Adar I 5784
Gloria Baskin
William Goldman
Vivian Grozen

2/25/2024 16 Adar I 5784
Samuel Katzman

2/26/2024 17 Adar I 5784
Louis Nulman
Irene Stern
Milton Weissman

2/27/2024 18 Adar I 5784
Helen Freedman
Sylvia Yoken

2/29/2024 20 Adar I 5784
Ruth Levine
Helen Nulman



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

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William "BT" Hathaway
Mike Roberts



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Clifton Hospice Services
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