

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



91st Year

January 2019

Tevet/Shevat 5779

No. 5

## Regular Service Schedule

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

Pictures from the **Interfaith Service of Peace and Solidarity** held on November 28th. Photos courtesy of the Herald News. Thank you to all who led the service and attended!



Pictures from our **Grand Chanukah Party** held on December 9th. Photos courtesy of Cantor Shoshana and Libby Cohen. Look for more throughout the bulletin!



A message from our Spiritual Leader,  
Rabbi Mark Elber  
*“Jewish Life and Creativity  
through the Ages”*

I write this column in mid-December, just as I am about to leave for a few days in Boston at the 2018 Association for Jewish Studies Conference. The Association began fifty years ago with a small number of Jewish studies professors and courses in the United States. Now there are thousands. The conference attracts scholars from around the U.S, Israel and Europe. It is striking to me that during an era when so many Jews ignore their Jewish education, others are delving deeply into it around the world – and the opportunities for those who seek them are many. Even in our own backyard.

This year (5779) during the month of January, we are just in the beginning of the book of Exodus in our annual journey through the entire Torah which begins with Creation and concludes with our ancestors about to cross the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land. After the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 CE and the subsequent expulsion of our ancestors from the land of Israel, the largest and most influential Diaspora community was in Babylonia (today's Iraq). Though there remained a Jewish community in the land of Israel, it was not nearly as large as the Jewish community in exile in Babylonia.

Of course those living in Babylonia did not know how long they would remain in exile from the homeland, but they built a very influential community with great academies for the study of Torah. This became the pattern in virtually every land in which we were dispersed throughout the last two thousand years. The Diaspora community in Babylonia was the source of one of the pillars of Jewish knowledge – the Babylonian Talmud – which was much more influential than the Jerusalem Talmud composed in the Land of Israel. After the Bible, the Talmud is the most important and influential work in our tradition.

As great as the Jewish community was in Babylonia, it gradually ceased to be the vital center of Jewish learning. The center of Jewish creativity shifted to Spain by the year 1000 and remained there until the expulsion from Spain in 1492. Many of the greatest rabbis, poets, Jewish philosophers and mystics lived in Spain during those centuries. After the Spanish Expulsion, the next great center of creative fervor surfaced in northern Israel in Tzfat during the sixteenth century. Then in the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries up until the Holocaust, Poland, Russia, and Germany were the most vital areas of Jewish spiritual and cultural life.

For the two thousand years of our existence in the Diaspora there were periods of great Jewish vibrancy and also periods of intense anti-Semitism, sometimes both oc-

curing simultaneously. I'm sure that none of those vibrant communities could foresee their demise – until it was imminently upon them. Is there a lesson in all of this today? Members of the Zionist movement that began in the 1890s in Russia and Poland clearly felt that this pattern would only cease by our return to our ancient homeland. Many Jews disagreed for various reasons. Some, like the ultra-Orthodox, believed that only the Messiah could bring us back to the land of Israel. Others, such as leaders of the Reform movement, did not see Jews as a people connected to a land, but more as a religion. The Jewish Socialist Bund felt that Jewish nationalism should exist in the Diaspora and that Jews should work for a socialist revolution in whichever country they lived. History argued in favor of the Zionists. The ultra-Orthodox and the Jewish Socialist Bundists were mostly wiped out in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust, while the Zionists who had immigrated to the land of Israel before World War II survived.

Most of the Jews who immigrated to Israel in the last 140 years did so either for idealistic reasons or out of necessity – either because they believed that our only possible future would be in Israel, or to escape anti-Semitism. There were some ultra-Orthodox Jews who went to spend their last years in the Holy Land – such as my father's great-grandparents who were buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. The history of American Jews, however, has been different from any other place in the Diaspora. There were far fewer idealistic Jews going to Israel from the U.S. before the formation of the State, and virtually none going to escape anti-Semitism. What's happened in the U.S. and in Western Europe has been an unprecedented degree of assimilation of Jews into the larger population. At the same time there has been a revival, almost phoenix-like, from the ashes of World War II, of the ultra-Orthodox community both in the United States and in Israel.

A question hangs over us today: will the history of Jews in the United States remain different from anywhere else? What will our future be here? There has been spectacular creativity in liberal (i.e., non-Orthodox) American Jewish life for the last 150 years. At the same time, “secular” Jewish life in Israel has flourished to an enormous degree, while liberal forms of “religious” Judaism have not been nearly as creative as we've witnessed in the United States (though this has begun to change in the last two decades).

To some degree we're still living in the shadow of the Holocaust and it is difficult, at least for my generation and those older than me, not to see its threat in the background. When we witness anti-Semitism growing again in Europe and anti-Semitic incidents greatly increasing in the U.S. over the last two years, it's hard not to wonder what will happen here. Millennials seem much less concerned with these issues and identify much less with the State of Israel.

*Continued on page 4*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Sisterhood President's Message*

I am smiling as I write this message, thinking about the last two events we have held here at Temple Beth El. The first was the Interfaith Service of Peace and Solidarity, which truly was a special event. To see such an assortment of ministers on our bimah, from our Jewish clergy to the Catholic Bishop of Fall River, from the Bethel AME church to the Muslims, from the Episcopalians to the Cambodian Buddhists, there was one message...that we are all one big human family. While this service was born from the tragic shooting in Pittsburgh, I would love to see it become an annual event, rotating between the different houses of worship. This message of unity should be spread not only in times of strife, but also in peaceful times. It should be spread to people of all ages, people unaffiliated with any church. This concept of unity despite diversity has always been near and dear to my heart, so I hope we can take this fantastic beginning and turn it into a regular event that grows each year. Thanks again to Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark for doing such an outstanding job organizing this very special community-wide service.

Our second event was our annual Chanukah party, and once again it was a huge success. The klezmer band, Ezekiel's Wheels, was great, everyone enjoyed the music, the comraderie, and the food. It is such a joy to see our vestry filled with smiling people, not just our congregants, but family and friends as well. Thank you to all who helped, especially our Sisterhood, who organized and managed the whole event. Thanks again to Andrew and Larry Polin for sponsoring the event in memory of their parents. Thanks also to Robert Falconero for donating the beautiful tablecovers, which were masterfully adjusted to fit our tables by Lee Horowitz and Anita and Norm Bolski. As always, it takes a village!

One other thing I must note is that in recent months, as a result of the torrential rainstorms we experienced, we have had several major leaks cause damage to the building. The most noticeable leak is in the foyer of the sanctuary, between the elevator and the sanctuary doors. We are going to need some roof repairs done before we can repair the inside. Roof work is always expensive, so if you would like to send in a special donation to the Building Fund, it would be much appreciated. Any funds received will go directly to the roof repair project.

I wish each and every one of you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019.

*Steve Silverman*  
President

Welcome to January folks, and with that comes the cold, ice and snow. To that I say a big yuck! Of course, some of our congregants have left for warmer climates. To them I say, enjoy your winter months. To those of us that stay north, I say keep warm and stay safe.

I must say our annual Chanukah party was a huge success. The entertainment was simply fabulous. To those folks who missed it, there's always next year. The party also marked the 90th birthday of Temple Beth El.

While we're discussing the party, I must take the time to thank the following people for helping to make it possible. First of all, Andrew and Larry Polin who subsidized the Klezmer band, Ezekiel's Wheels, in memory of their parents. Then next up, Robert Falconero who donated the lovely table covers. I mustn't forget Lee Horowitz and Anita and Norm Bolski, who came in to help set up the tables.

Hannah Evans sent out the invites. Marie Twomey and Judy Morganstern took the reservations. George Haire and his helpers, Arleen and Sue, made sure everything ran smoothly. My committee members, Norm and Anita Bolski and Beverly Solup, are the very best. Without all their behind-the-scenes help these events would not be possible. Last but not least, a big thank you to Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana for all their special guidance.

So until next month, keep warm and stay safe. Be careful walking.

*Libby Cohen*  
Sisterhood President

## *Sisterhood Gift Shop*

Have you seen our Red Sox or Patriots mezuzot (\$29), as well as black suede Patriots kipot/yarmulkes (\$15)? If you are or know any fans, they make a great gift. Because of their popularity, I've reordered them several times. Check out the inexpensive (\$3.50) **LED Flameless Yizkor Candles** or the **Traveling Shabbat Candles**.

If you are looking for a gift and it isn't in our gift shop, you can either browse my catalogs or my wholesalers' websites.

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

*Continued from page 2*

One thing that is obvious from any study of Jewish history, however, is that we have managed not only to survive, but to thrive throughout our long history. While it is true that the Jewish demographic in Fall River has been greatly reduced over the last decades, nonetheless, we have recently been attracting new members (and even celebrated a bris in November!). These new members tell us that they were attracted by our warmth and authenticity, and by the feeling that they could make a difference in our community. And indeed, they do! Our numbers may not be what they once were, but our offerings are many, our gatherings warm and lively. As we head into 2019, I hope to see many more of you in our adult ed classes, at our films, taking part in our Shabbat and holiday celebrations – ensuring that Temple Beth El will continue to be a place where Jewish life is alive and flourishing.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2019,

*Rabbi Mark*

**SERVICE SCHEDULE**  
**January 2019**  
**Tevet/Shevat 5779**

<u>Friday, January 4 (27 Tevet)</u>	
Candle Lighting	4:09 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, January 5 (28 Tevet)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Vaera	10:00 am
<u>Monday, January 7 (1 Shevat)</u>	
Rosh Chodesh Shevat	
<u>Friday, January 11 (5 Shevat)</u>	
Candle Lighting	4:17 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, January 12 (6 Shevat)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Bo	10:00 am
<u>Friday, January 18 (12 Shevat)</u>	
Candle Lighting	4:25 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, January 19 (13 Shevat)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Beshalakh	10:00 am
<u>Monday, January 21 (15 Shevat)</u>	
Tu biShevat	
<u>Friday, January 25 (19 Shevat)</u>	
Candle Lighting	4:33 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, January 26 (20 Shevat)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Yitro	10:00 am

**TEMPLE OFFICE**

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 E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net  
 Website: frtemplebethel.org

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

**OFFICE CLOSED:**

Tuesday, January 1st: New Years Day  
 Monday, January 21st: Tu biShevat

**Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.**

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 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.

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- 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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## TBE News & Notes

Another year gone by! Of course, we as Jews, get to say that twice a year...or more! The month of Shevat (beginning this year on Jan. 7th) brings us the marking of the New Year of the Trees – **Tu biShevat**.

This year **Tu biShevat** falls on the same day as the observation of Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 21st), but we will celebrate the “New Year of trees” on **Friday Jan. 18th** in the form of a **Tu biShevat Seder** at 5:30 which will take the place of the Kabbalat Shabbat service that evening. Please join us for song, learning, prayer, and a light repast of wine, challah and various fruits of the trees and the earth.

Once again, Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana will take part in the **BCC Martin Luther King Day Community Breakfast**. This event is free and open to the public. Please join us to remember and honor the legacy of Dr. King at Bristol Community College on **Monday, Jan 21st, beginning at 8:30 AM**.

And speaking of Martin Luther King Day, please see the notice for our **January TBE movie, Black-Klansman** which has been selected with the topic of civil rights (and the Jewish connection thereto) in mind.

### **Looking back on recent events:**

When I wrote about our Nov. 28th **Interfaith Service of Peace and Solidarity** in December’s “News and Notes,” the event had not yet taken place. Now I can report that it was an extremely uplifting event, involving clergy and people of all faiths from across the Greater Fall River area. It was great to share our sanctuary with about 125 people, including local city and state politicians. I am still feeling buoyed by the support of all who turned out!

The **TBE Chanukah party** was a grand event! The klezmer group **Ezekiel’s Wheels** played to a packed social hall, the deli luncheon with latkes was delicious, and a good time was had by all. Thank you to all who helped with this celebration – everyone wants to have the band back again next year!

### **Looking ahead...**

The next major Jewish holiday after this month is **Purim**. (**Erev Purim** will be Wednesday night, March 20th.) We are working on this year’s **Purim Shpiel** (traditional comic skit) for this year’s Purim celebration. We look forward to sharing the joy of this holiday with everyone.



It’s the early 1970s, and Ron Stallworth (John David Washington) is the first African-American detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Determined to make a name for himself, Stallworth bravely sets out on a dangerous mission: infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan. The young detective soon recruits a more seasoned colleague, Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver), into the undercover investigation of a lifetime. Zimmerman, who had previously taken little stock of his Jewishness, finds himself reflecting on its import as he has to hide his background while infiltrating the Klan. Together, they team up to take down the extremist hate group as the organization aims to sanitize its violent rhetoric to appeal to the mainstream.

This 2018 film directed by Spike Lee is based on a true story. It won the Grand Prix Prize at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, and has been nominated for 4 Golden Globe Awards: for Best Motion Picture; Best Director; Best Actor; Best Supporting Actor.



*Thank you for your donations received through November 22, 2018*

### Yahrzeits

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

David Cohen	Cohen & Novek Families
Mother, Ada Gourse	Natalie Prokesch
Brother, Henry W. Juda	Joyce Juda
Father, Dr. Henry Lustig	Ann Freedman
Mother, grandmother, Phyllis Nerenberg	Anna Nerenberg, Marc, Lee & Jackie Bernstein
Barry Novek	Novek Family
Mother, Paula Shuman	Peter Lex Shuman
Father, Julius Simpson	Irma Feldman
Father, Aaron Solotist	Harriet Grunberg
Mother, Rose Tallman	Elayne Lowenthal

### MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

For the yearzeit of my beloved grandfather, Bennett Alpert Sumner Alpert

### CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Cantor Shoshana Brown

Renee Lipson  
Glenn & Stephen Sherman

### CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Anita & Norm Bolski in appreciation for the caring and kindness shown to us

Paula & Larry Meyerson

In honor of the birth of Raphael David Sherman

Anita & Norm Bolski

In honor of the birth of a grandson to Marion Wilner

Ethel & Sid Winokoor

In honor of the congregation of Temple Beth El

Cheryl Crossley Simmons

In memory of Lorraine Kaplan

Gloria & Jerry Baskin  
Irma & Carl Feldman  
Gail Wilkinson

In memory of Dr. Barry Steinberg

Sandra David  
Irma & Carl Feldman  
Ethel & Sid Winokoor

For the recovery of Bill Chebot

Anita & Norm Bolski

### IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Lorraine Kaplan

In memory of Atty. Richard Levin

In memory of Lester Schwartz

In memory of Dr. Barry Steinberg

For the recovery of Joel Bass

Ann & Bob Chavenson

### BERNARD HOROWITZ

#### BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

In honor of Catherine Saltzman celebrating a birthday  
Arlyne Dondis

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Rabbi Mark Elber  
Glenn & Stephen Sherman

#### SHABBAT KIDDUSH LUNCHEON FUND

Sylvia Eisner  
In honor of Gloria & Jerry Baskin celebrating special birthdays  
For the recovery of Bill Chebot  
Anne Griffin

#### WISH LIST/LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Lorraine Kaplan  
In memory of Dr. Barry Steinberg  
For the yearzeit of my wonderful, beloved wife, Hummy Bill Chebot

### SYLVIA S. & ALBERT B. YOKEN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Bonnie Feldman  
In honor of Harvey Leonard  
In memory of Eli Rubin  
In memory of Calvin Siegal  
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**OFF THE SHELF**

I hope everyone had a delightful Chanukah. Things sure looked like they were rockin' at the Temple Chanukah party! Now it is time to prepare for the winter weather that is sure to come. Good news! There are a bunch of new books in the library, so come on down and borrow a couple to read while hunkered down in front of a cozy fire. A big thanks to Libby Cohen for her recent donations! That really helps widen the selection. I have also brought books in that I have finished and Marie just informed me that books I had ordered have now arrived, thanks to donations for our Wish List. Thank you! We also received some beautiful books donated by Dr. Jeff Horowitz, from the collection of Ahavath Achim in New Bedford, which closed in 2010. I just need to add them all to the accession log and get them ready to put out on display. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to bringing some new reading material to our treasured library.

If you need or would like to get in touch with me concerning any books, feel free to email me at [rbfield18@aol.com](mailto:rbfield18@aol.com). That is the easiest way to communicate with me. It may take days for me to return a call, as my landline is just for messages. If you don't have email, please call the office and they will send me a message.

*Robin Fielding*



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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](http://www.frtemplebethel.org)*

## YAHARZEITS

1/1/2019 24 Tevet 5779  
Bruce Kay

1/3/2019 26 Tevet 5779  
Lillian Kline  
Anna Ellison Schaffer

1/4/2019 27 Tevet 5779  
Sarah Belford  
Sheila Holtzman

1/5/2019 28 Tevet 5779  
Simon Winokoor

1/6/2019 29 Tevet 5779  
Paula Fox  
Birdie Phillips

1/8/2019 2 Shevat 5779  
Betty Greenberg  
Dorothy S. Levin

1/9/2019 3 Shevat 5779  
Sidney Goldman  
Rose Moss

1/10/2019 4 Shevat 5779  
George Hodosh

1/11/2019 5 Shevat 5779  
Claire Sundel

1/12/2019 6 Shevat 5779  
Max Horvitz  
Charles Rosenberg  
Philip Shapiro

1/15/2019 9 Shevat 5779  
Augusta Kaufmann

1/16/2019 10 Shevat 5779  
Normand Futoransky  
Joseph Horowitz

1/18/2019 12 Shevat 5779  
Tylda Schwartz  
Arnold Wolfson

1/20/2019 14 Shevat 5779  
Louis Freedman  
Esther Mickelson  
William Shriberg  
Morris Wilner

1/21/2019 15 Shevat 5779  
Margot Bogus  
Adolph Feder  
Fannie Woloshen

1/22/2019 16 Shevat 5779  
Abner Kravitz

1/23/2019 17 Shevat 5779  
Jack Mickelson  
Charles Novek

1/24/2019 18 Shevat 5779  
Ada Wolfson

1/25/2019 19 Shevat 5779  
Louis Robinovitz  
Mildred Trieff

1/26/2019 20 Shevat 5779  
Lottie Bloom Sandler  
Eugene Joseph Silverman

1/27/2019 21 Shevat 5779  
Atty. Lloyd Belford

1/28/2019 22 Shevat 5779  
Seymour Filler  
Martin Schlam

1/29/2019 23 Shevat 5779  
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Bernice Hoffman  
Charles Kane  
Mary Reiser

1/30/2019 24 Shevat 5779  
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