

THE BULLETIN OF

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



95th Year

January 2023

Tevet/Sh'vat 5783

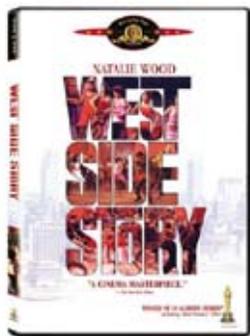
No. 5

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



Thank you to Cantor Shoshana for the spectacular sunset photos! This was at Baker's Beach.



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Sunday, January 22nd at 2 pm

"WEST SIDE STORY"

for more information, see page 5

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

Where does the time go? It feels like the High Holidays were not that long ago, and now it's already January – not to mention 2023 or 5783. This month we finish the book of Genesis and begin the book of Exodus. Genesis ends with Joseph's death at the age of 110, and his being embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. Near the end of his life, he asked that his bones be returned to the Promised Land where he had lived only his first seventeen years of life. All the patriarchs are gone. We are left with our ancestors in Egypt. The book of Exodus begins by recalling the names of Jacob's sons who went down to Egypt with him, each son with his household.

In the Torah's typical style, we traverse a great deal of time within a few verses. We go from the above-mentioned recitation of the names of Jacob's sons to our ancestors no longer being just an extended family, but a numerous people. The beginning of Moses' life is told very succinctly also, sketching the background of the great hero of the four books (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) that complete the Torah. Though Moses' birth is mentioned in Exodus 2:2, his parents are essentially anonymous. All we know is they both are from the tribe of Levi. We only learn the names of Moses' parents (Amram and Yokheved) in Exodus 6:20.

Names in the Bible are usually very significant. The Hebrew name for the Book of Exodus is *Sh'mot* – which means “the names of.” Moses' father's name, Amram, has two components: “Am” and “ram.” “Am” means “people” or “nation.” “Ram” means “high,” “eminent,” or “supreme,” and is even used at times to refer to “G'd” i.e. “the Supreme One.” So Amram can mean “eminent people” or even “people of G'd.” Sometimes Moses is referred to as “*ben Amram*,” “the son of Amram.” The name Yokheved also has two parts: “Yo” and “kheved.” “Yo” is an ancient name of G'd and the “kheved” part of Moses' mother's name has the root that means “glory” or “honor” – and is also used to imply G'd's Presence at times. So Yokheved means “Glory of G'd” or G'd's Glory.” Moses' parents, as you can see, possessed names fraught with meaning.

Arguably the most important and potent name in the entire Torah appears in *Sh'mot* 3:14 at the scene of the Burning Bush. Moses has fled Egypt to save his life and is now a shepherd for his father-in-law, Yitro, in Midian. As he was shepherding the flock in the wilderness, he came to *Khorev* (also known as Mt. Sinai in other parts of the Torah and Tanakh). He sees a bush burning at the foot of the mountain, but strangely, the fire does not consume it. He hears a voice coming from the bush. The voice says: “I am the G'd of your ancestors, the G'd of Abraham, the G'd of Isaac and the G'd of Jacob (the exact formula that appears

at the beginning of the prayer known as the Amidah). The voice tells Moses to return to the land of Egypt to free the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

Moses does not feel qualified for this task, and says: “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh...” Then he asks: “When I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘the G'd of your ancestors has sent me to you’ and they ask for this G'd's name, what shall I say?” The answer given to Moses is a name we have not heard before in the Bible, nor will we hear it in this form again: “*Ehyeh asher Ehyeh*,” literally “I will be what I will be,” or “I will be Who I will be.” This name is a variation of the much better known four-letter Divine Name Y-H-V-H which we don't pronounce, nor do we know how to pronounce it. It was pronounced once a year on Yom Kippur by the High Priest in the Holy of Holies in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem and the tradition for how to pronounce it was lost. However, the name clearly combines elements of the verb “to be” in past, present, and future forms.

Our tradition has taught a reverence for words throughout millennia, both for the oral and the written word. The rate of literacy in the Jewish world, even in ancient times, was unusually high. Isaac Luria, who lived in the 16th century in the northern Galilean city of Tzfat, taught that every person has their own letter in the Torah. In other words, every person has their own unique insight into the Torah. Everyone has something only they can teach. No two people have ever lived the exact same life or have ever had the exact same experiences. Each person counts. Each person has something unique to contribute.

Another crucial component to the power of words is truth. If people do their best to speak honestly and truthfully, their words retain meaning. If people speak falsely, especially intentionally, language as a form of communication itself suffers. When we can no longer trust people's words, all of society suffers. There's an expression in the Talmud: *kushta ka'ey, shikra la ka'ey* (“the truth will stand, a lie will not stand”). Eventually the truth will come out. Our language is a great treasure we possess that we pass on to subsequent generations. Even though ways of communicating continue to evolve over the centuries, the use of language has remained central, whether expressed orally, in a scroll, or on a computer screen. In our own era of high-powered technology, chanting the Torah from a handwritten scroll carries with it an even greater power: the power of an unbroken chain of reverence for these ancient words, with their accompanying rituals (such as the customs relating to how we chant them, how the scrolls are written, etc.). The fact that today we are still studying, still debating, still learning from these names and these words that informed our ancestors so long ago, tells us something about their power. I hope that you will join us for Torah study in 2023 to stay connected with this wisdom right here at Temple Beth El in Fall River.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we head into 2023, and the long days of winter, we will continue on our current course...with the hope that more and more of you will consider coming to services in person. Zoom has been such a silver lining for us during the pandemic, and we will continue to offer hybrid services (both Zoom and in person), but everyone who comes to Temple really enjoys participating in the services together.

I was remiss in forgetting to thank Andrew Polin for once again providing all of the audio/visual equipment for our High Holiday services free of charge. The quality was outstanding, and this year we even had two cameras. The videographers did a fantastic job too. Thank you Andy!

I also wanted to extend my sincere condolences to Gladys Rosofsky on the loss of her beloved husband, Murray. Back in the day Murray was a regular at our weekly card game. He was a wonderful man, and quite a character! May his memory be for a blessing.

It has been nearly three years since we had our last live event, the Purim party in 2020. Who would have thought we would still be dealing with Covid in 2023? Here's to a brand new year, one filled with joy and good health and yes, one where we can once again safely enjoy being in the company of our friends and loved ones.

I would like to welcome Bill Markson and his wife, Susan Wing, to our congregation. They have been participating via Zoom but now hope to come to temple more often. Welcome!

Steve Silverman
President

IN MEMORIAM

MURRAY ROSOFSKY

DECEMBER 21, 2022 - 27 KISLEV 5783

MAY HIS MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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 am writing this piece, it is the first night of Chanukah, the candles in the menorah are lit, and I am reflecting on the past year. How time seems to fly as we get a little older. With all the things that have transpired, I'm happy to be here.

I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year! It's 2023, and we are well into the 21st century. It seems like just yesterday we were preparing for Y2K. Now we've lived through a pandemic that changed life as we knew it forever. We all had to learn a new way of life. I am so thankful I survived it. I plan to try and get a little pleasure out of each and every day. As a fine lady I knew always said, "this is not a dress rehearsal."

So, until next month, stay warm and safe. To all of you going south for the winter, enjoy your time there, and we'll see you in the spring.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President



A sampling of those who ventured out to enjoy the last night of Chanukah at the Rabbi's and Cantor's house.

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William "BT" Hathaway
Mike Roberts



SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 2023
Tevet/Sh'vat 5783

Tuesday, January 3 (10 Tevet)

Fast of Tevet

Friday, January 6 (13 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 4:11 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, January 7 (14 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayekhi 10:00 am

Friday, January 13 (20 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 4:19 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, January 14 (21 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Sh'mot 10:00 am

Friday, January 20 (27 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 4:27 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, January 21 (28 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Va'era 10:00 am

Monday, January 23 (1 Sh'vat)

Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat

Friday, January 27 (5 Sh'vat)

Candle Lighting 4:36 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, January 28 (6 Sh'vat)

Weekly Portion: Bo 10:00 am

TEMPLE OFFICE

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Website: frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Monday, Jan. 16th - Martin Luther King Day



Last night of Chanukah at the home of
Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana.

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Thank you for your donations received through Jan. 22nd

YAHRZEITS

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

Cousin, Judy Berg	Rick Schwartz
Father, Harry Finkelstein	Joel Finkelstein
Mother, Edith Gold	Micki Gold
Mother, Anne Gregory	Jonathan Gregory
Mother, Lorraine Kaplan	Robin Gross
Parents, George & Rose Kessler	Sylvia Eisner & Don Kessler
Husband, Seymour Kevelson	Carol Kevelson
Father, Eric Lawson	Denise Lawson
Father, Hyman Lepes	Ronald Lepes
Father, Francis Levin	Miriam Klein
Mother, grandmother, Phyllis Nerenberg	Anna Nerenberg, Marc, Lee & Jacqueline Bernstein
Late wife, Sylvia Reback	Dr. Harvey Reback
Mother, Leah Reback	Dr. Harvy Reback
Father, Samuel Rotenberg	Lisa Shapiro
Father, Isaac Schwartz	Virginia Lepow
Mother, Yetta Sludsky	Paula Sultan
Husband, Dr. Barry Steinberg	Edythe Steinberg

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Bill Chebot's 95th birthday

Anita & Norm Bolski
Sue and Joe Paresky

In honor of Congregation Beth El

Cheryl Crossley Simmons

In honor of my son, Richard, earning an MS in

Technology Management from Brandeis University
Sylvia Eisner

In memory of Gloria Bieler

Sayre Litchman

In memory of Brett Fain

Anita & Norm Bolski

In memory of Irma Feldman

Iris Katzman
Karen Sokoll

In memory of Charlotte Fradkin

Sylvia Eisner

In memory of Ethel Winokoor

Iris Katzman

ANNA & MORRIS LEPES CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Anna & Morris Lepes

Ellen & Terry Shand and Family

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

For the recovery of Sylvia Eisner

Renee Lipson

DR & MRS N. KENNETH SHAND BUILDING FUND

In memory of Dr. N. Kenneth Shand & Ruth Shand

Ellen & Terry Shand and Family

SPECIAL GIFTS

In memory of my beloved husband, Peter Kane

Marcellene Doctor Kane, M.D.

In memory of my beloved husband, Allen Taradash

Shirley Taradash



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Is "West Side Story" a Jewish film? Well, the musical's composer (Leonard Bernstein) was Jewish; the original choreographer (Jerome Robbins) and the lyricist (Stephen Sondheim) were Jewish... and now, in this 2021 re-make of the film, the director is Stephen Spielberg and the screenplay is by Tony Kushner...and so although there are no overtly Jewish characters, this is about as Jewish as you can get! Plus, it's set on the West Side of Manhattan, near what is now Lincoln Center.

Justin Chang, who reviews films on "Fresh Air" (on NPR) said of this film:

"What's remarkable about [the musical numbers here] is how brilliantly Spielberg directs them. West Side Story is the first musical he's ever made, but it's no surprise that he's a natural at it: Few other American filmmakers have a more instinctive sense of rhythm and visual flow, or more direct access to your emotions...This "West Side Story" may be grittier and more realistic than the original movie, but it also feels more thrillingly old-fashioned than anything a Hollywood studio has released in ages...I was moved by Spielberg's conviction, his sheer faith in the transporting power of movies. For two-and-a-half hours, he makes you a believer again." (2 hours 36 minutes)

Temple Family

- Welcome to our newest members, Bill Markson and his wife Susan Wing.
- Our sincere condolences to Gladys Rosofsky on the loss of her beloved husband, Murray.

TBE News & Notes

People often ask me, “What is going on at Temple Beth El” these days?

And if they mean on site, *physically at* the temple, alas, things are still limited these days to services in the chapel (Friday night, Shabbat morning, and Monday and Thursday *Shakharit* services – all with a Zoom component); and our once-a-month showing of Jewish films.

But that does not mean that things are not lively in TBE cyberspace!

Our Monday morning adult ed, which we hold on Zoom exclusively, has been a mainstay for a good handful of us as we keep up wonderful conversations over books like *Gonzo Judaism*, and *If All the Seas Were Ink...we would love to have more of you join us*, the conversations are scintillating!

Rabbi Mark continues to teach Hebrew to several levels of Hebrew students on Zoom; and when spring comes, I will begin to invite you to join me once again for our TBE Nature Walks.

Since the pandemic, even if things in the rest of the world are tending to go “back to normal,” we just have not fully bounced back yet here at the temple. Partly, this is due to the extra care that many of our members are taking to be careful about any possible exposure to viruses. Many people just don’t feel safe yet to return to things in person.

It also has to do with the **building itself**, which the board has resolved to move forward on, getting it professionally cleaned. We are hoping that once everything is “Spic and Span” again, we can throw a nice social event, as we did so many times in the pre-pandemic days, and that we will once again see one another’s shining faces.

In any case, we have intentionally picked a **film for this month that is both a visual and a musical treat. Who doesn’t love West Side Story?** But did you see the new version that came out last spring? If not, please come see it with us; and if you did see it, come enjoy it again! Mostly, it is important that we come and enjoy being *with one another*. What’s more, if you don’t have health restrictions, come join us in the chapel for services. Zoom is a godsend, but still, it is not the same as being together in person. Yes, we are “people who need people.” Being together with friends and community is **good** for our mental and emotional health.

We had a small but lively gathering for the **Chanukah party at our home** on December 25th. Also, thank you to all those who joined us for Rabbi Mark’s poetry reading both in person and on Zoom that day.

So my wish for 2023 is that **we will be together more and more**, and that we will grow in strength and happiness. We hope to see more of you – *in person* – soon!

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY FOR NEARLY A CENTURY

The Hebrew phrase *I’dor vador* means from one generation to the next. The Fall River Jewish Home has committed itself to this simple principle by caring for members of the Jewish community since 1926. We are grateful that the community has placed their trust in the Home for these many years. We have strived to earn that trust every step of the way, by operating a Home that has consistently delivered high-quality and compassionate care. We would not have experienced nearly one hundred years of excellence without the steadfast support of the community. We are truly grateful for that support.

The non-profit Board of Directors of the Home, after much deliberation and reflection, reluctantly decided that, in the best interests of the community, the Home should be sold. As many of you are aware, in July of 2022 the Home was sold to an experienced private operator, with significant resources, which will allow it to continue to provide quality care to the community at the Robeson Street location.

The success of the Home, its five-star rating and its stellar reputation, a true pillar of our community, is a reflection of the quality of the Home’s staff over the years. We are so grateful to these hard-working employees. Some will continue working with the new ownership and we are certain that they will continue to do what they do best, providing outstanding and loving care to the residents of the Home. We have been blessed with people who have incorporated the residents’ perspectives into their care and have treated each person with the dignity and respect that he or she deserves. This is what has set the Home apart from other nursing facilities.

Jewish Omni Services, a non-profit organization and parent company of the former Fall River Jewish Home, will move forward with significant resources. As we assess how Jewish Omni can best address the needs of our community, our focus will be on providing support to our local residents. We look forward to continuing to meet the community’s needs for many generations to come. By supporting a broad spectrum of local non-profit groups, our goal is to build a more vibrant Jewish community and a more equitable and inclusive Fall River.

We have only just begun this phase of service to our community.

*Kenneth G. Littman, President
Jewish Omni Services, Inc.*

On Friday, December 16th, in lieu of a traditional d'var Torah, Cantor Shoshana composed this poem, and was later urged by those at the Kabbalat Shabbat service to "publish" it in the bulletin. It is about Joseph (called "Yosef" in the poem) in the Book of Genesis.

Man of Ups and Downs

*by Shoshana Brown,
for parashat Vayetzei, December 16, 2022*

He was just seventeen, beautiful in face and form
in his rainbow-colored coat –
a mama's boy – only his mama was no more.
Doted on by Dad, a man-child so spoiled:
was he oblivious to the effect that his blabbering
about his dreams would have?

A man of ups and downs, this Yosef, *aliyah v'yeridah*:
down in the pit,
up to be sold, carried atop a camel
down into Egypt
where his well-built self
would be apprised by the wife of his master –
he had risen to have mastery over all of Potiphar's house
when this woman of no name,
with her perfectly-kohled eyes
and her own shapely form commanded him:
"Lie down with me!"

Once again Yosef rises up,
up from the couch, up from temptation –
only to land once again
below ground, down into the darkness –
into the dungeon where
he will dream again about light and power,
about a someday-triumph in which
sheaves of grain will bow down, even the sun and the moon
and the stars will pay him obeisance.
But now he does not tell
of his own dreams – he has learned that much.
He interprets the dreams of others:
the cup-bearer, the baker, the candlestick maker...
Until he is yanked up once more
out of the bor [the pit]
to tell the dreams of Pharaoh.

O Yosef – did you wonder how low you could go;
how high your rise might be?
Did you ever miss your little brother Binyamin,
your treacherous half-brothers who tried to do you in?
Did you long for home, or did you know
that Egypt was where your fortune lay?
You are a hard man to read,
with your beautiful face always closed
in seeming equanimity.
You will be given power, gold, a highborn wife
and sons of your own –
but we cannot know
whether you missed home:
you never give that away.

One day you will be astonished
when your dreams actually come true:
your famished brothers bowing down to you –
and yet you do not show your surprise:
you always know what to do,
devising a test to see
what the state of their souls now might be –
But what of you?
What will it take to crack the visage of
your beautiful face,
for you to lose your serenity,
your mastery, to speak from your heart,
to pour out your pain?

O Yosef, beautiful man in your
soft Egyptian linens;
your gleaming chest adorned with Pharaoh's gold,
your eyes now rimmed in Egyptian kohl –
how far down will you have to dig
to find a feeling that is true –
to lose your mastery and become
vulnerable?
To understand that life is not a game of who's on top –
that the true winner is the one who fumbles,
the one with the broken heart?



Winter sunset from
Warren's Point,
Little Compton

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

1/1/2023 8 Tevet 5783

Howard Krasnow
Leon Nathan Malin

1/3/2023 10 Tevet 5783

Arthur Granovsky
Mathilda H. Raffel

1/4/2023 11 Tevet 5783

Frederick Belford
Robert Sokoll

1/5/2023 12 Tevet 5783

Sylvia Schneider

1/6/2023 13 Tevet 5783

Paula E. Shuman
Maurice Sludsky

1/7/2023 14 Tevet 5783

Nathan Silk

1/9/2023 16 Tevet 5783

Herman Gitlin
Bessie Gladstone
David Thaler

1/10/2023 17 Tevet 5783

Sophie Cohen
Ida F. Kane
Louis M. Raffel
Milton Reiser

1/11/2023 18 Tevet 5783

Samuel Kay
Harry Spiro
Murray Taradash

1/12/2023 19 Tevet 5783

Dr. Samuel Sandler

1/13/2023 20 Tevet 5783

Samuel Isaac Siegel
Janet Smith

1/15/2023 22 Tevet 5783

Martha Kaufmann
Sylvia Zalkind

1/16/2023 23 Tevet 5783

Fannie Wilner Aranov
Ruth Gerard
Harriet Grunberg
Mae Hodosh
Sarah Kaplan
Dolores Levis
Dr. Donald Rotenberg

1/17/2023 24 Tevet 5783

Bruce Kay

1/18/2023 25 Tevet 5783

Robert Chavenson

1/19/2023 26 Tevet 5783

Lillian Kline
Anna Ellison Schaffer
Sarah Sobiloff

1/20/2023 27 Tevet 5783

Sarah Belford
Sheila Holtzman

1/21/2023 28 Tevet 5783

Simon Winokoor

1/22/2023 29 Tevet 5783

Victor Field
Paula Fox
Birdie Phillips

1/24/2023 2 Sh'vat 5783

Betty Greenberg
Dorothy S. Levin

1/25/2023 3 Sh'vat 5783

Rose Moss

1/26/2023 4 Sh'vat 5783

George Hodosh

1/27/2023 5 Sh'vat 5783

Tracy Fleisher
Harry Weissman

1/28/2023 6 Sh'vat 5783

Max Horvitz
Charles Rosenberg
Philip Shapiro

1/29/2023 7 Sh'vat 5783

Louise Macy

1/30/2023 8 Sh'vat 5783

Dr. Leonard Lechan

1/31/2023 9 Sh'vat 5783

Abraham Ehrenhaus
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