

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



97th Year

March 2025

Adar/Nisan 5785

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

### ***ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS***

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING June 18, 2025**

**Please Plan to Attend In-Person or on Zoom**

**Formal VOTE by  
ALL MEMBERS ATTENDING**

**APPROVE or REJECT  
SELLING  
THE TEMPLE BETH EL COMPLEX in 2025  
(Potentially November/December 2025)**

**The Board will be sending out information  
periodically ahead of the meeting.**

### ***Schedule Change!***

We have changed our Purim service to Friday morning, March 14th. The service, which starts at 10 am and will include the reading of the Megillah, will be followed by a festive Purim meal. Please join us!



A message from our Spiritual Leader,  
Cantor Shoshana Brown

### **Chag Purim Sameach!**

*Chag Purim, chag Purim,  
Chag gadol hu la'Yehudim,  
Masekhot, ra'ashanim, shirim v'rikudim  
Hava narisha, rash, rash, rash!...  
bara'ashanim.*

"Purim Day, Purim Day:  
It's a great Jewish holiday:  
Masks, groggers, singing and dancing.  
Let's make a big noise, *rash, rash, rash!*...  
with our groggers!"

Yes, Purim is coming. It seems in many ways the oddest holiday of the Jewish year, and yet, surprisingly, it tends to coincide with similar non-Jewish holidays that fall around this same time of year: St. Patrick's Day and Mardi Gras, both nominally Christian holidays that are associated with celebrating with perhaps one glass too many, as well as with music, parades and the wearing of masks or costumes. Like these Christian holidays that may have been seen as "last flings" before the 40-day period of Lent (or, in the case of St. Patrick's Day, sometimes a "break" from Lenten restrictions for that one day), Purim can be seen as a chance to "bust out" before we begin clearing our homes of all *chametz* and grain-based alcohol before Passover.

Purim is both like and unlike all the other holidays of the Jewish calendar:

Like the first days of Pesach and Sukkot, Purim falls on a full moon.

Like Pesach and Chanukah, Purim tells a story of when our people were in great danger, and how we escaped with our lives intact.

Like Chanukah, Purim tells the story of an event that is not recorded in the Torah, and so therefore was not decreed by God, but was established and embraced by the Jewish people themselves.

*Unlike* Pesach, after the Jews of Persia are saved from impending disaster, there is no lasting "salvation." They return to their status quo in the Persian diaspora.

The Rabbis of the Talmud saw a connection between Purim and Yom Kippur, which is also called *Yom ha-Kippurim*, which the Rabbis said meant that this day was *like* Purim. They analogized Esther's role in the Megillah, when she goes in to plead before the king for the life of her people, to that of the High

Priest going into the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur to offer the atonement prayer and sacrifice.

On Rosh Hashanah we blow the shofar to wake up our souls. On Purim we swing our groggers to blot out Haman's name.

On Passover we are supposed to drink four cups of wine. On Purim we are supposed to imbibe enough alcohol that we cannot distinguish between the phrases "Blessed be Mordechai" and "Cursed be Haman."

And what about Shavuot? On both Shavuot and Purim we read from *megillot*, scrolls, that feature stories of heroic women who put others ahead of themselves. Esther became the wife of the Persian king so that she might one day be able to help her people; Ruth who remained with her Jewish mother-in-law after her husband had died, converted to Judaism, and married Boaz to provide the family with security, becoming the great-grandmother of King David. Both women took actions whose importance they could not fathom at the time, but which had far-reaching consequences to the Jewish people.

The mood of Purim is strange: on the one hand, there is much humor and merry-making in its celebration – but it is also a holiday that reminds us, especially in the diaspora, of our existential vulnerability as a people, since we are such a small percentage of the population amongst the peoples where we live. (Even in Israel, one is reminded of how small a nation Israel is compared to all the large Arab and Muslim nations that surround it.)

I have been thinking a lot lately about one particular passage in the Megillah's story. It comes after Mordechai has enraged Haman by not bowing down to him; and so Haman obtains permission from the king to issue a decree to exterminate not just Mordechai, but all Jews in the Persian empire:

"The orders were issued in the name of King Achashverosh and sealed with the king's signet. Accordingly, written instructions were dispatched by couriers to all the king's provinces to destroy, massacre, and exterminate all the Jews, young and old, children and women, on a single day...and to plunder their possessions. The text of the document was...to be proclaimed in every single province; it was to be displayed to all the peoples, so that they might be ready for that day. The couriers went out posthaste on the royal mission, and the decree was proclaimed in the fortress of Shushan. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was dumfounded." ( Esther 3:12 -15)

*Continued on page 6, 2nd column*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I give tours throughout the Temple complex, I am reminded how much things have changed over the years. The classrooms were bustling with Jewish learning and the sanctuary was packed to capacity. The auditorium was noisy with basketball games and a myriad of events. The organ was impressive, often drawing people in off the street, and our choir was spectacular. Now, I see much emptiness and failing structures. The complex is just too big and costly for the present membership.

In order to proceed, we need to make some difficult decisions, such as the details of the sale and moving to a new location. At the upcoming annual meeting on June 18th, the Board will be looking for your support to make these difficult decisions. We will have Zoom for the meeting, but Zoom has not been the best in the vestry, so please come in person if at all possible. There will be an official congregational vote taken at the meeting.

Much has been happening throughout the place. Some of the 5000 library books are being donated. Some of the donated items have been reclaimed. But there is still a lot to go. We will be running clearance auctions in the near future to assist in reducing the assets.

That said, our cemetery is looking great. Last fall our landscaper, Tommy Fillipovich, took on a big project, trimming back the trees that had started to grow over the path, and filling it all in with mulch. This spring we will also be getting a number of trees at the cemetery which will replace many of the trees we have lost over the years. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation is providing these trees, (possibly up to thirty) at no charge, including delivery and planting. I am also pleased to report that Gail Wilkinson and her sister Fran have purchased a tree in memory of their beloved parents, Carl and Irma Feldman. Everything is going to look great! The picture below shows the trimmed trees and mulch.

*Rick Schwartz  
President*



## *Sisterhood President's Message*

Happy March everyone! I hope that you are all ready for the winds that usher in the start of Spring. I'm sure you've noticed the days are getting longer. Also, we will be pushing the clocks ahead on Sunday, March 9th. This marks the beginning of Daylight Savings Time 2025.

At February's "Make a Minyan" Shabbat we celebrated Tu BiSh'vat. This is when we celebrate the New Year of trees. Some people refer to it as Jewish arbor day. At this time, we recognized a new tree planted here at Temple Beth El, in the form of new member, Jacqueline Hart. She recently completed her studies, and is now an official member of our tribe. It's my pleasure to officially welcome her to Sisterhood. Jacqui, it's great to have you on board.

Please save these two dates. On Friday, March 14th at 10 am we will celebrate Purim. First, we will read the "Megillah," followed by a special brunch. It's a good time to get out, reconnect and socialize. I hope to see all of you there. On Saturday, March 22nd we will be hosting our monthly "Make a Minyan". I am lucky to have a wonderful Events Committee, comprised of Sylvia Eisner, Carleen Makowski, Elaine Weiss Reback and myself, under the guidance of Cantor Shoshana Brown. I thank each and every one of you for all you do for these events.

So, until next month, stay safe and well. See you at the Temple.

*Libby Cohen  
Sisterhood President*



Tu BiSh'vat kiddush at our February "Make a Minyan." Another great spread put on by Sisterhood, with special thanks to Libby, Elaine and Carleen!

**Service Schedule**

**March 2025: Adar/Nisan 5785**

Saturday, March 1 (1 Adar)

Rosh Chodesh Adar  
 Shabbat Shekalim  
 Weekly Portion: Terumah 10:00 am

Friday, March 7 (7 Adar)

Candle Lighting 5:25 pm  
 Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, March 8 (8 Adar)

Shabbat Zakhor  
 Weekly Portion: Tetzaveh 10:00 am

Thursday, March 13 (13 Adar)

Erev Purim  
 Fast of Esther

Friday, March 14 (14 Adar) \*Updated schedule!

Purim 10:00 am  
 Reading of the Megillah  
 Shabbat Service: 5:30 pm  
 Candle Lighting: 6:33 pm

Saturday, March 15 (15 Adar)

Shushan Purim  
 Weekly Portion: Ki Tisa 10:00 am

Friday, March 21 (21 Adar)

Shabbat Service: 5:30 pm  
 Candle Lighting: 6:41 pm

Saturday, March 22 (22 Adar)

Shabbat Parah  
 Weekly Portion: Vayakhel 10:00 am

Friday, March 28 (28 Adar)

Shabbat Service: 5:30 pm  
 Candle Lighting: 6:49 pm

Saturday, March 29 (29 Adar)

Shabbat HaChodesh  
 Weekly Portion: Pekudei 10:00 am

Sunday, March 30 (1 Nisan)

Rosh Chodesh Nisan

**LEADERSHIP**

Mark Elber.....Rabbi  
 Shoshana Brown.....Cantor  
 Richard Schwartz.....President  
 Leonard Lehrer.....Vice President  
 Libby Cohen.....Secretary  
 Robert Falconero.....Treasurer  
 Libby Cohen.....Sisterhood Pres.  
 William E. Kaufman.....Rabbi Emeritus

**TEMPLE OFFICE**

385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720  
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 E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net  
 Website: frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

ZOOM LINKS

Zoom links for regular and special services are now available on our website: [www.frtemplebethel.org](http://www.frtemplebethel.org)



***Dr. Florence Schlam***

*Please join us in person or on Zoom for the Shabbat morning service on March 15th to wish Florence a very happy 100th birthday! Mazel tov!*

**SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS**

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 Partner

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 (508) 730-7104 cell  
 (508) 679-9704 fax  
[jeffnjan11@comcast.net](mailto:jeffnjan11@comcast.net)





### TBE News & Notes

**\*\*News Flash!\*\*** The previously-announced date for our TBE **celebration of Purim** has been **changed**. It will take place on **Friday morning, March 14th**, beginning with a Shacharit service and Megillah reading **at 10 AM**, and followed by a Purim *se'udah* (a celebratory meal).

One of the **mitzvot of Purim is to give tzedakah** to those in your own neighborhood. Please try to bring along a little cash to donate to our tzedakah fund for United Neighbors of Fall River (or you may write a check made out to "United Neighbors of Fall River"). We will be taking up this collection after the Megillah reading.

Another happy event that will fall on March 14th this year is the **100th birthday of Dr. Florence Schlam!** Florence and her late husband, Martin, lived for about ten years in Fall River, and were regular attendees at our Shabbat morning services. Florence still attends from her New Jersey residence on Zoom. Florence, we miss you, and want to wish you many more years of health!

Our **March Make a Minyan** will be on **March 22nd**. (And, if you are marking your calendar, you can also mark April 26th for our April minyan.) Barbara Nelson and her husband, Fred Cohen, are sponsoring a special kiddush to celebrate a baby-naming for their new granddaughter! Come one, come all!

Another April date to remember will be **Thursday, April 24th**, when we will gather to observe **Yom HaShoah** (Holocaust Remembrance Day), at 5:30 PM.

Due to Rabbi Mark and I attending his brother Erwin's memorial service, our **Sunday afternoon at the Jewish Movies** has been postponed until next month.

### *In Memoriam*

Erwin Elber, M.D., son of Dr. Gerson Elber and Regina Elber, brother of Rabbi Mark, passed away on February 26, 2025. Erwin was born on November 12, 1945 in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, then lived for several years with his parents in a DP camp in Austria. The family arrived as refugees to the United States in June 1949 (two and a half years before the birth of his little brother, Mark). The family settled in Queens, New York. Erwin followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a doctor, studying at Tufts Medical School and serving as an ENT surgeon in the U.S. Army for three years, then entering private practice in North Carolina, and later in Gallup, New Mexico. He retired in 2015, moving with his wife Bonnie to Towson, MD. Erwin is survived by his wife Bonnie, his brother Rabbi Mark, his son Niles and daughter Caitlin, and five grandchildren. May his memory be a blessing, and may his soul rest in peace.



Rabbi Mark, son Lev & brother Erwin during a visit in 2007.

### *A very special "Make a Minyan" in March!*

*Our March "Make a Minyan" is Saturday, March 22nd at 10 am.*

*Barbara Nelson and her husband Fred Cohen will be celebrating the baby-naming for their brand new granddaughter. Mazel Tov!*

*As part of the celebration they are sponsoring a "feast" for kiddush. Please join us!*

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*Thank you for your donations received through Feb. 24th*

*Continued from Page 2*

### YAHARZEITS

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

<b>Mother-in-law, Fannie Wilner Aranov</b>	Marion Wilner
<b>Mother, Margot Bogus</b>	Tilden Bogus
<b>Sister, Sandra Bogus</b>	Tilden Bogus
<b>Mother, Elena Cohen</b>	Cohen & Novek Families
<b>Mother, Regina Elber</b>	Rabbi Mark Elber
<b>Father, Seymour Filler</b>	Mark Filler
<b>Father, Louis Freedman</b>	Joyce Goldweitz
<b>Mother, Ruth Gerard</b>	Jay Gerard
<b>Father, Simon Goldberg</b>	Jane Goldberg
<b>Father, Cyril Hochberg</b>	Stacey Quandt
<b>Mother, Edith Kusinitz</b>	Edith K. Getchell
<b>Mother, Edith Kusinitz</b>	Enid K. Lomax
<b>Mother, Sheila Lash</b>	Gillian Perlinski
<b>Mother, Sheila Lash</b>	Alison Rode
<b>Mother, Madeline Leonard</b>	Marion Wilner
<b>Mother, Dorothy Levin</b>	Ruth Levin
<b>Father, Dr. Leonard Lechan</b>	Robin Fielding
<b>Mother, Rose Moss</b>	Shirley Taradash
<b>Mother, Esther Mickelson</b>	Beverly Solup
<b>Father, Jack Mickelson</b>	Beverly Solup
<b>Husband, Mike Morgenstern</b>	Judy Morgenstern
<b>Father-in-law, Charles Novek</b>	The Novek Family
<b>Aunt, Lottie Bloom Sandler</b>	Samuel Billard
<b>Ronald Schneider, MD</b>	Ada Schneider
<b>Mother, Dorothy Schwartz</b>	Rick Schwartz
<b>Mother, Tylda Schwartz</b>	Ginny Lepow
<b>Mother, Cilla Sobiloff</b>	Ellen Mark
<b>Father, Myer Sobiloff</b>	Ellen Mark
<b>Brother, Harry Weissman</b>	Jeff Weissman
<b>Brother-in-law, Morris Wilner</b>	Marion Wilner

### CAPITAL FUND

In memory of Bernard Labush  
 In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Philip Margolis becoming grandparents  
 In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Margolis becoming parents  
 Beverly Solup  
 In memory of my beloved husband, Allen Taradash  
 Shirley Taradash

### IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of beloved husband, father, grandfather,  
 Frank Kosofsky  
 Judith Kosofsky

### MORNING MINYAN FUND

In memory of my beloved brother, Bernard Chebot  
 Bill Chebot

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We know what happens next, although it takes some persuading on Mordechai's part to get Esther to go in to the king to plead for her people (since the king did not know that Esther was Jewish, and also, no one was allowed to go in to speak with the king unless they had been summoned). Mordechai says to Esther:

*"Do not imagine that you, of all the Jews, will escape with your life by being in the king's palace. On the contrary, if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come from another quarter, while you and your father's house will perish. And who knows? Perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a crisis."* (4:13,14)

The Jewish people today are living through a very difficult time in our history, both in this country and in Israel. With the rise of antisemitism around the globe, both on the far-right and the far-left, especially in the wake of Oct. 7 and the war against Gaza...things seem just as *un*-permanently settled now as they did at the close of the story in Megillat Esther.

What is the message of this book, the only book in the Tanakh that never mentions God's name? It seems to me that it is telling us that "deliverance" is very much dependent on the brave actions of individuals, and not necessarily from the most powerful. Yes, God may be active behind the scenes when we take the brave steps necessary to fight against injustice or to help others, but God is waiting for us to *take* those first steps. It is also telling us that there is no such thing as "happily ever after"; that the need to *keep* walking courageously into the future, always trying to do the right thing, is a journey that never ends. It is what our lives as Jews are all about. But occasionally, it is good to laugh, make merry, and to raise a glass with our friends and family, to celebrate this journey we call life. I look forward to seeing many of you on Purim. *L'chaim!*

*Cantor Shoshana*

### TEMPLE FAMILY

- A very happy 100th birthday to Dr. Florence Schlam, who continues to join us on Zoom for Shabbat morning services. Mazel tov!
- Our condolences to Rabbi Mark, Cantor Shoshana and their son Lev on the loss of Rabbi's brother, Dr. Erwin Elber





**Star Wars 5774:  
The Revenge of Shushan  
(2014 Purim Party)  
These kids are  
all grown up!**



**Purim Party  
2020**



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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,  
*Go to [www.frtemplebethel.org](http://www.frtemplebethel.org)*

# MARCH YAHRZEITS

3/1/2025 1 Adar 5785

Regina Elber  
Richard Shore  
William Wolfson

3/2/2025 2 Adar 5785

Isaac Bolski  
Joy Field  
Hyman Karp  
Rose Presser  
Myer N. Sobiloff

3/3/2025 3 Adar 5785

Max Jacob Packer

3/4/2025 4 Adar 5785

Bernard Chebot  
Sadie Lovit

3/5/2025 5 Adar 5785

Clara Freedman  
Irene Kassler Jones  
Charles Meretsky

3/6/2025 6 Adar 5785

Edith Kusinitz  
Kenneth Littman  
Philip Ostroff  
Bertha Weinstock  
Philip Zalkind

3/7/2025 7 Adar 5785

Adelle Wiener

3/8/2025 8 Adar 5785

Elena Lee Cohen  
Ida Glickman  
Selma Juda  
Michael Morgenstern  
Mannis Shapiro

3/9/2025 9 Adar 5785

Helen Babin  
Rita Minkin

3/10/2025 10 Adar 5785

Leona Finkel  
Richard Rosenberg

3/11/2025 11 Adar 5785

Louis I. Galitsky  
Hyman B. Gollub  
George Sandler  
Marilyn Wolfson

3/12/2025 12 Adar 5785

Louis Bachman  
Mollie Cohen  
Hyman Levine

3/13/2025 13 Adar 5785

Robert M. Cohen  
Walter Seibert

3/15/2025 15 Adar 5785

Gloria Baskin  
William Goldman  
Vivian Grozen

3/16/2025 16 Adar 5785

Miriam Horvitz  
Samuel Katzman

3/17/2025 17 Adar 5785

Fannie Keppler Halper  
Alice Jean Horowitz  
Louis Nulman  
Irene Stern  
Milton Weissman

3/18/2025 18 Adar 5785

Benjamin Cohen  
Helen Freedman  
Sylvia Yoken

3/19/2025 19 Adar 5785

Israel Waksler

3/20/2025 20 Adar 5785

Ruth Levine  
Helen Nulman

3/21/2025 21 Adar 5785

William Meyerson  
Pamela Pierce  
Elsie Pollock  
Abraham Trieff

3/22/2025 22 Adar 5785

Marian Cohen

3/23/2025 23 Adar 5785

Edwin Macy  
H. Charles Reiser

3/24/2025 24 Adar 5785

Manuel Hyman  
Eva Waksler

3/25/2025 25 Adar 5785

Thelma Greenberg  
Lillian Lepes  
Janet Weissman

3/26/2025 26 Adar 5785

Virginia Granovsky  
Fannie Hillman  
Frederick Kaplan  
Doris Rotenberg

3/27/2025 27 Adar 5785

Jonathan Entin

3/28/2025 28 Adar 5785

Michael Katz  
Miriam Reiser  
Barry Schwartz

3/29/2025 29 Adar 5785

Rose Oscar  
Susan Schwartz  
Hadley Wilkinson

3/30/2025 1 Nisan 5785

David Freedman

3/31/2025 2 Nisan 5785

Edna Dashoff

